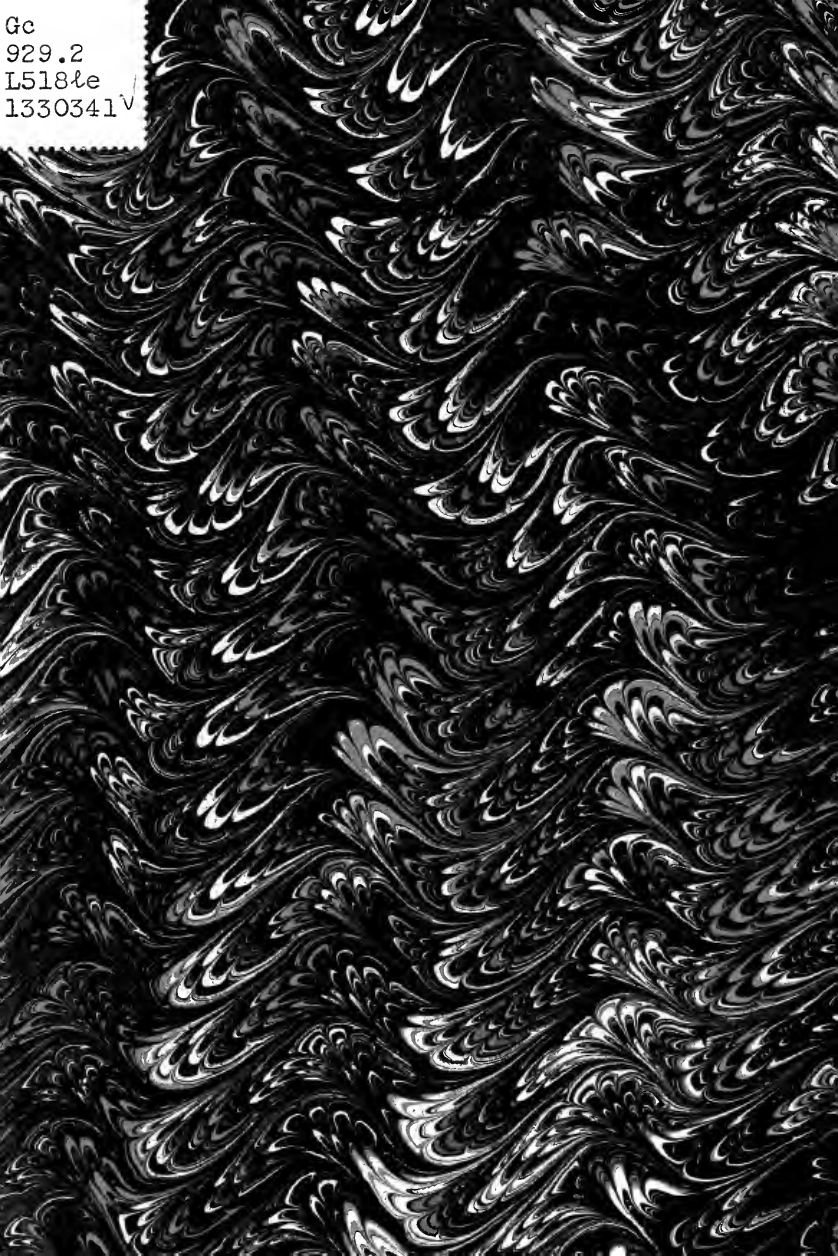




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Presented to  
Roger Wolcott Esq.  
with the kind regards  
of the Author.  
Joseph Leete.

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24th January  
1913.

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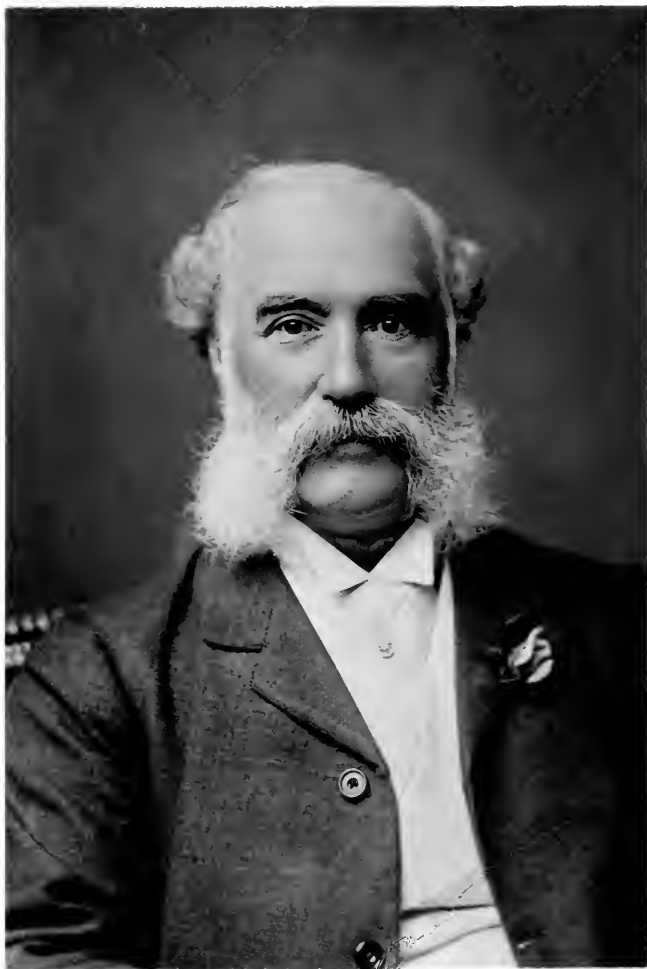


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JOSEPH LEETE.

The  
Family of Leete

BY

JOSEPH LEETE

*CHEVALIER DE LA LÉGION D'HONNEUR*

SOUTH NORWOOD, SURREY

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

JOHN CORBET ANDERSON

AUTHOR OF

"Chronicles of Croydon," "Biblical Monuments"  
etc., etc.

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SECOND EDITION

REVISED AND ENLARGED

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LONDON

1906



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23, Abchurch Lane, London, E.C.

1330341

TO MY KINSFOLK.

10-29-05 #2381 H



## INTRODUCTION.

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When I commenced my researches into the history of the family of Leete some forty years ago, I was actuated mainly by the desire to acquire, for my own personal satisfaction, a better knowledge of my ancestry.

It was natural therefore, that, when I published my book in 1881, for private circulation only, I should place on record, in the form of a letter to my children, an explanation of the circumstances connected with the production of the work.

I wrote as follows :—

“ EVERS DEN,

SOUTH NORWOOD PARK, S.E.,

*5th September, 1881.*

“ MY DEAR CHILDREN,

In years to come, when you will be inclined to look more closely than now into the following record relating to your genealogy, you would, if left in ignorance, inquire with a natural wonder, how it came to pass that your father was able to place in your hands this small volume, crowded with facts concerning your ancestry, and bristling, from beginning to end, with the oft-reiterated name of Leete.

In anticipation of such curiosity, I will endeavour to relate

the particular circumstances which led to the collection of these details of our family history.

You will hardly need to be reminded that I was born, in 1831, at Royston, situated on the borders of Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire, where our family have resided since the year 1768, the date at which my great-grandfather, Robert, of Eversden, married and settled in the busy little market town of Royston.

My father had numerous brothers and sisters, and among them two named Susan and Elizabeth, who had left Royston in early life, and had for many years resided in London. Susan was married to a French gentleman named Constant Champion, who carried on in London the business of an export Merchant. The other sister, Elizabeth, was married to a gentleman named George French Flowers, Mus. Doc., Oxon.

It was at the instigation of my Aunts that, at the age of fifteen, I left my country home for the great and bewildering Metropolis.

My uncle Champion took me into his City office, where he initiated me into the working of his business with the Continent. When the duties of the day were over, I frequently visited the house of my uncle, Dr. Flowers, in Keppel Street, Russell Square.

Here I formed the acquaintance of a gentleman named Charles Bridger. I was well aware that he was engaged in antiquarian pursuits, and more especially in the study of Heraldry. I must

confess, however, that during those early years of my London life his favourite occupation did not excite my sympathy or interest. My own mind was fully absorbed by the consideration of how I could quickly create for myself a position in the commercial world ; and when I had reached the age of twenty, this desire was intensified by my having made the acquaintance of your dear mother. Miss Harriet Whitaker was at the time taking lessons in singing of Dr. Flowers. Her brilliant voice, great accomplishments, and amiability of character were the general theme of praise on the part of all my uncle's circle of friends. She did not, however, possess the needful knowledge of Italian to sing with effect in that language. A Professor was therefore engaged, who gave her weekly lessons ; but her progress, with this limited amount of instruction, seemed tediously slow. It chanced that I had recently been studying the language, and had attained considerable proficiency therein. What could be more natural than the suggestion that I should assist Miss Whitaker in the study of Italian ?

The work was speedily commenced, and afterwards pursued with ardour. We studied the grammar together, wrote books full of exercises, read Silvio Pellico, and the comedies of Alberto Nota ; in short, went perseveringly through all the laborious work of learning a foreign tongue. Nor was Italian our only study. It was soon seen that the singing of even one piece like " Robert, toi que j'aime," could not be done satisfactorily without a correct knowledge of French.

To the study of Italian was now added that of French. The

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To the study of Italian was now added that of French. The

learning of the two languages was carried on in the most cheerful but determined manner during many months of the memorable year 1851.

But why this digression you will say? What has Miss Whitaker's learning of Italian and French to do with Heraldry or the Leete genealogy? Well, simply this: Your dear mother and I, while engaged in our work, found we had fallen in love. This is not the place to tell the whole story, and you must be thankful if, in such a record as this, you are allowed to have a solitary glimpse of the romantic. The sequel, happily for you, is well known; and you will also remember all your life through, under what joyously auspicious circumstances your parents celebrated their Silver Wedding (15th May, 1881).

When you have looked into the long, dry chronicles of births, marriages and deaths, varied by records of the disposal of deceased men's property and other such items of information, you will turn back gladly to this page. You will thank me then for having made a digression, which has prompted the wish that it were possible to enliven a genealogical record with narrations of this kind. How little do we know of the hopes and fears, the early struggles, the vicissitudes of fortune, the defeats and the victories experienced by our ancestors whose names are recorded here!

But to return to our story.

The ardent Heraldist had meanwhile left our circle, and I saw no more of him for long years. I had not forgotten, however,

that he mentioned he had seen at the British Museum a record concerning the pedigree and arms of the Leete family.

The early years of my married life had passed over ; you, my dear children were all born, and the commercial establishment of Leete and Baillon had weathered the storms which beat upon new enterprises, when, in the year 1864, there arose in my mind a desire to make search at the British Museum for the records spoken of by my friend Bridger.

Having procured a reader's ticket, I repaired to the great Reading-room of our National Museum. The first ancient and portly tome which I asked for had just been placed in my hands, and I was about to try to decipher its curiously written contents, when, looking around to see what other readers were near me, I espied, in the next compartment, my long-lost acquaintance, Mr. Charles Bridger. Judge of our mutual surprise at meeting at a place to which I had been drawn by the remembrance of what I had heard from his lips so many years before ! My mission to such an uncommercial locality was quickly explained, and knowing that my time was too precious to be given up to such researches as would be needful, I readily availed myself of Mr. Bridger's offer of services to bring to light the desired facts concerning my genealogy, the arms that had in former days been borne by the Leete family, etc.

Little did I think, when I gave my friend "open orders," that I was starting him on a roving commission which was to extend over many months ; and that when such special and costly researches

were concluded, he would continue all through the rest of his able and laborious career to gather, with an Antiquarian's zeal and patience, from Government Records, Wills, Parish Registers, Magazines, Historical Works, in short, from every conceivable source, a vast store of information about the Leete family.

My friend set about his task with the intelligence which only a man experienced in such intricate matters can command.

He took for his point of departure the Herald's Visitation of Cambridgeshire in 1619, for therein is set forth the genealogy of which we knew to be my branch of the family—the Leetes of Eversden. As a natural consequence, his first pilgrimage was to Great and Little Eversden. These places lie close together, and are about five miles from Cambridge.

The Church Registers of these two parishes were keenly scrutinised by the practised eye of Mr. Bridger ; and although the ink was yellow with age, and the writing troublesome to decipher, the first page of the old chronicle of Great Eversden afforded strong encouragement for our search. Thereon stands the entry :

“23rd June, 1573. Baptism of Simeon, son of Robert Leete.”

The present seemed to be suddenly linked to the past, for my great-grandfather Robert gave to his eldest son the name of Simeon, and this Simeon (my grandfather) kept alive these traditional Christian names by giving them to my uncles Simeon and Robert.

It was, however, found that some of the ancient Registers, between the years 1600 and 1700, were missing.

This break of nearly a century in the record was so serious a mischance that it looked at one time as though there would be no possibility of our constructing an unbroken chain of descent.

In this unexpected emergency Mr. Bridger was compelled to send for me, and we met at Cambridge. What was to be done? Luckily, at this juncture, Mr. Bridger remembered that in former times there had been records known as Bishop's Transcripts. The very name was new to me, so my friend explained that these documents were copies of the Church Registers, made out yearly, and signed by the Vicar and Churchwardens, and sent to the Bishop's Court.

After some search, we found the documents at Cambridge, where they had been stowed away for generations. They proved to consist of strips of parchment, upon which were set forth the name and locality of the Church, followed by a record of the Christenings, Marriages and Burials which had taken place in the course of the year.

It was fortunate for the object of our search that the Leetes of Great and Little Eversden had occupied the position of Churchwardens during a long period of years, and had been careful to furnish the annual record for the Bishop's Court. The parchment strips we searched bore, in regular succession, the signature of "Leete, Churchwarden"; and you will, I hope, easily

conceive that I could not, without deep interest, turn over those dusty, long-forgotten parchments, and reflect that the worthy Churchwardens had borne, throughout what we may reasonably believe was an honourable life, the same name that has come down through a score of generations to me and to you.

The Eversden parishes were not the only ones in which this record of the Leetes' connection with the Church had been preserved. They had held the like office of Warden in Gilden Morden, Kingston (Cambs.), etc.

The transcript signed by Gyles Leete in 1609 was written throughout in a fine, bold, Elizabethan character. You will observe by the pedigree that he married a second cousin of Francis Bacon, Lord High Chancellor of England, and died in the same year (1626) as the great philosopher.

He appeared before the Heralds at their Visitation to Cambridgeshire in 1619; and the record which shows that he was the grandson of John Leete, of Eversden, and was entitled to bear the Leete Arms, is preserved at the College of Arms, London.

On the same record a careful tracing of the Coat and Crest was made, so that not only have we an authentic pedigree as our starting point, but likewise a faithful representation of the Leete Arms, as borne in those olden days.

The investigations commenced by Mr. Bridger at Eversden soon showed the necessity of pursuing the like researches in a

large number of other parishes, and so in the end were brought to light those thousand and one entries in Parish Registers which appear in the book. By no less a laborious process than this could all the needful links be found which form the long and unbroken chain of evidence upon which our pedigree rests.

Mr. Bridger was too conscientious an antiquarian to be satisfied with rash conclusions, or simple assumptions that this or that was the rightly assigned place in the chain of any one member of the family. He bent his energies, therefore, to the task of finding collateral evidence. For this purpose the Wills at Peterborough, Ely, Bury St. Edmunds, London, and elsewhere were examined; and, indeed, every source of evidence available for such a purpose was drawn upon.

When at length all these apparently chaotic elements were by patient and intuitive talent, reduced to a well-ordered and coherent whole, he found that he had been able to construct a most comprehensive and widely-extending genealogical tree of the Leetes of Eversden.

When you come, my dear children, to trace from the parent stem your own individual pedigree through all its ramifications during the past three centuries of time, you will be struck with the thought that, although many a man who was the head of his generation passed away without leaving any marked impress of his life, yet his individual existence, however insignificant it might at first sight appear, was an indispensable part of the whole.



You are, in a like manner, forming by your life another link to be added one day to the past ; and I pray that this new link in the long chain may, through your leading a noble life, become so bright as to add fresh lustre to the ancient name of Leete.

You will readily understand that Mr. Bridger could not, when gathering the materials, form any just appreciation of the value or fitness for this purpose of any separate item of intelligence. He therefore, very wisely took the same careful account of all ; and when at length he distributed or, as he used to say "appropriated" the materials by assigning each fact to its proper place, it was found that he had not only built up a vast pedigree for the Eversden Leetes, but had made some score of others quite as accurate, if less elaborate than that. These short pedigrees will, I feel sure, be found most serviceable to the Leete family as a whole, in whatever part of Great Britain and her Colonies, or the United States of America they may now be living.

These records of ancient names, of localities, and of estates, and even of peculiar Christian names, will, I hope, furnish in numerous instances a clue to the origin and ancestry of many a living Leete, who is at this moment ignorant of the precise locality of his ancestral home and parent stock.

The mass of facts collected at such pains and cost, will become the common property of the Leete race. My hope is that you, my dear Children, will continue and extend the work thus begun by me.

In this labour of love you will, I doubt not, be assisted by

many who, like yourselves, bear the name of Leete, and who cannot but possess for the appellation and its old associations a lively interest and a loving regard.

I remain, my dear Children,

Your affectionate Father,

JOSEPH LEETE."

" To My Children,

SUSANNA EMILY,

ARTHUR, WARREN, and NORMAN."

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The publication of my book awakened great interest, and brought me into correspondence, and in many instances into personal contact, with a large number of members of the family, both in England and America; some of whom placed at my disposal additional information bearing on the family history. My acknowledgment of these contributions will be found at the head of the respective chapters to which they belong.

I have carefully preserved the acknowledgments of my book which reached me from many quarters, and I think it will be interesting if I here reproduce one from a very dear English friend, and another from a correspondent in America.

I have known Mr. Evill, the writer of the following letter, for more than forty years. He has just published in his 84th year his

reminiscences, under the title of "Rambling Records of a Long and Busy Life."

"WORCESTER PARK,  
SURREY,

*January 28th, 1883.*

"MY DEAR MR. LEETE,

I am quite touched by this mark of your regard, and I thank you for affording me a genuine pleasure.

You may perhaps think that outside the family circle this record will afford no interest, but I can assure you that it is otherwise. You have infused into the narrative a spirit that lifts it out of the ordinary category of our genealogies, and will enlist for your family life and history the sympathy of many a strange reader.

I think your biographic and explanatory letter to your children is simply charming, so happily blending the dry chronicles with the loving father and the attached husband.

It gives the key to your home life and the strong and happy attachments that have characterised it. Surely, the volume is unique and nothing was ever more complete—arrangement, type, paper, portrait, all unexceptional; as to the latter, both as a likeness and a work of art, it leaves nothing to be desired, and, if for that alone, your friends will be grateful to you for the issue of the volume. I am writing on the spur of the moment, after a

thorough overhauling of the book, so you must be assured that the feeling I express is genuine.

As a family man myself, I can understand what a labour of love this has been to you, and with what natural pride and gratitude all the members of your family will receive the record. "*Noblesse oblige*" is a grand motto, and your children will have now a new incentive to the "noble life" you urge them to live, so that the volume will have an educational value.

I warmly congratulate you and Mrs. Leete and your children on its issue. What madmen are they who would abolish family! Why, it is the salt of national life, and one of the chief sources of our strength and prosperity as Englishmen is that we so warmly and lovingly cherish it.

I could say much more, and, if I waited a little, could write you a letter more worthy of the theme, but I prefer to send you these first thoughts, as their freshness will guarantee their sincerity, and you will prefer them to anything more formal and elaborate.

I again warmly thank you, and with kindest regards to Mrs. Leete, in which, as to yourself, Mrs. Evill cordially unites.

Believe me,

Most faithfully yours,

WM. EVILL."

From the Secretary of the New Haven Colony Historical Society, Thomas R. Trowbridge, Esq., I received the following letter:

“NEW HAVEN, CONN.,  
*Sept. 22nd, 1882.*

Joseph Leete, Esq.,  
London.

“DEAR SIR,

Please accept our thanks for the valuable volume received a day or two ago from London, “The Family of Leete.”

The name Leete has ever been an honourable and respected one in this Commonwealth.

Governor Leete was one of the pillars of the Church and Colony in New Haven's early days. He married Madam Rutherford, widow of Henry Rutherford, and an ancestress of the writer.

The quaint little house of Mrs. Leete's father is still to be seen, in fact, I pass it daily.

It is a great and growing pleasure for us who claim this beautiful America for our home, to trace our families back to old England, and we are proud to feel that the English race is the one from which we sprang, and with which our destinies are inseparably allied. We rejoice in all your victories, whether in Zululand, India, or beneath the Pyramids.

If at any time, I, or our Society, can be of any use to you in historical matters, do not fail to command us.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS R. TROWBRIDGE, JR.,

*Secretary, N.H.C.H.S."*

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The reader will readily understand that such generous appreciation of my book, as these and similar letters express, was a source of great satisfaction and pleasure to me, and at the same time an incentive to further investigation in the same field.

My former work was compiled mainly from the records of the Visitations of the Heralds to Cambridgeshire in 1619, and from Parish Registers, which were instituted in 1538. I felt, however, that if further search could be made among the Ancient records preserved in the public Archives, our efforts might be rewarded with information regarding the earlier history of the family ; information which might also throw light on the origin of the family arms.

That our hopes in this respect have been realised is shown by the additional information now presented in the following pages.

It was not possible for me, in view of my business engagements, to undertake personally the needful researches, but I was fortunate in securing the co-operation of Mr. John Corbet Anderson, who had edited my former volume for the press, after the untimely decease of my old friend, Mr. Bridger.

I need hardly remind my readers that great skill and experience are needed, in order to be able to extract from our ancient records the valuable information they contain. The deciphering of these early documents, in their antique and strangely mixed forms of Anglo-Saxon, Norman-French, and Mediæval Latin, is rendered more difficult by the use of abbreviations, and a style of handwriting in which facility of reading can only be acquired by long years of practice. I feel, therefore, a deep sense of obligation to Mr. Anderson for the great service he has rendered me, and for the infinite pains he has taken to make this new record practically complete.

In the Explanatory Letter to my Children which I have reprinted, I gave a brief outline of my early career. It will, I think, be interesting to my readers to know that in the year 1902, I completed my Jubilee as Head of the Firm, now Joseph Leete and Sons, which I founded at the age of 21. The occasion was celebrated by the presentation to me by my partners, and Home and Continental travelling Staffs, of a marble bust of myself, executed by the eminent sculptor, Mr. F. W. Pomeroy. My many friends at home and abroad also availed themselves of this opportunity of expressing their affection and regard.

The nature of the business in which I was engaged, made it necessary for me to spend a considerable time of each year abroad. During these long absences my late beloved wife proved a most devoted companion, and for no less than fifteen years we travelled together throughout the entire Continent of Europe. She will be remembered by all who knew her for the sweetness of her

disposition, her high intelligence, and her brilliant musical talent. We had enjoyed forty-three years of happy married life before she was called away from my side.

During later years absence from home has been less frequent and less protracted, and I have been able, from time to time, to give some personal attention towards the completion of a work which has never been entirely laid aside since the publication of the first edition, more than twenty years ago.

Having thus briefly indicated the origin and scope of this record of my family, and my personal share in its preparation, I have only to express the hope that this enlarged edition of my work will meet with the same generous appreciation as its predecessor, and that it will be treasured as a valuable contribution to the annals of the family of Leete.

JOSEPH LEETE.

EVERSDEN,

SOUTH NORWOOD PARK, S.E.,

*9th November, 1905.*





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THE LEETES  
IN ANCIENT RECORDS.



# THE LEETES IN ANCIENT RECORDS.

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## ORTHOGRAPHY OF THE NAME.

The documents which we distinguish in this chapter by the name of Ancient Records are those which are preserved in the Public Record Office, London, and other depositories of our Public Archives. They include Domesday Book, the Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, Hundred Rolls, and other writings, in which are recorded the ancient tenures of land, the services, rewards, and the succession of holders of estates, etc.

In deciphering these Records it is impossible to avoid encountering the serious obstacle that arises from an unsettled state of ancient orthography.

During the Middle Ages, the knowledge of the art of writing was confined almost exclusively to ecclesiastics, who were called Clerics or Clerks. When these had occasion to record a name there was no fixed rule of orthography to guide them; and they had to convey, as best they could, their own appreciation of the name as suggested by its sound. The spelling of names, both of persons and places, also varied greatly in consequence of their being written in a Latin form in some Records, while in others they appear in Norman-French, or Early English.

Of all our quotations from Ancient Records, those from the Close Rolls of the reigns of King John and Henry the Third exhibit the most capricious examples of early orthography, to which it may be well to direct special attention. At first sight, it would appear improbable that these entries in the Close Rolls could have reference to the same persons, for the name is spelt in nine

different ways, thus:—1. Delete, 2. de Letes, 3. de Lettes, 4. de Delette, 5. de Delettes, 6. de Delettis, 7. de Lettres, 8. de Delettres, 9. de Elettes. Yet, despite this astonishing orthographical divergence, an examination of the Record will convince the most sceptical that it all relates to the same Knights-Crusaders.

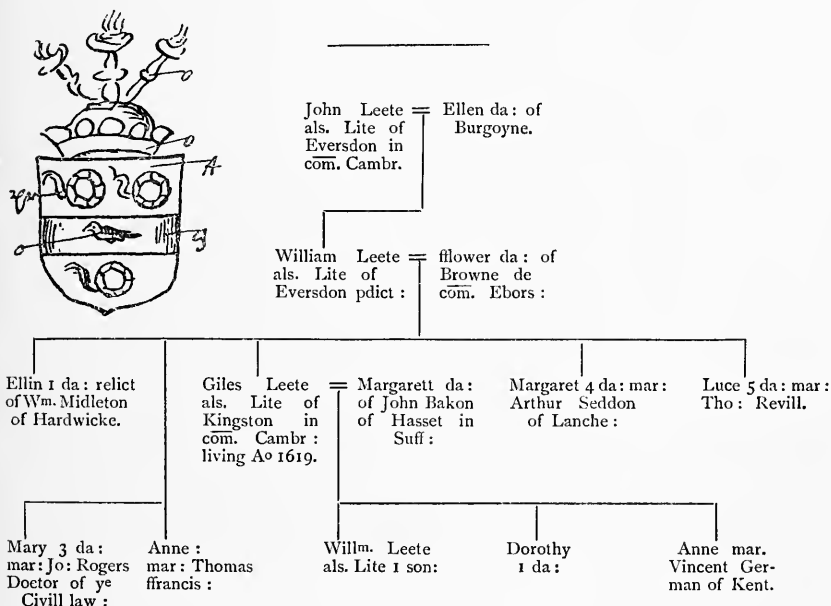
The Norman prefix *de* long continued to be attached to the name. In 1273 we have a record in "Pedes Finium" of Roger **de Leyt**, of Lynton Parva, Cambs.; and in a Cambridgeshire "Hundred Roll" of the same period (reign of Edward I) occurs John **Delet**. In "Pedes Finium" of the year 1278 reference is made to Rads. (Radmund) **de Litte**, of Cruce Roys, or Royston, who may have been a son, or grandson, of the Knight Radmund **de Lete**.

Later on we find the prefix *le* used before the name; thus, in the "Patent Rolls" of the year 1288, mention is made of John **le Leyt**; and in 1303 Richard **le Lyte** held land in Toft and Comberton, Cambs.

These instances of spelling the names with an *i* or *y* no doubt resulted from the Records having been written by a Norman scribe. To him the sound of the central letter *e* would naturally be an *i* or *y*, after the manner in which we pronounce such French words as *prestige*, *elite*, or *Elysée*. Thus, Rads. **de Litte** or Roger **de Leyt**, John **le Leyt** or Richard **le Lyte**, were merely variations in orthography, occasioned by the conditions under which the names were recorded. This is plainly shown by a record of the year 1303, in which the above-mentioned Richard **le Lyte** is described as holding part of a Knight's fee in Toft and Comberton, whilst a few years afterwards, A.D. 1326, the person assessed for the same place is named "Robert, son of **Lete** of Toft."

We have considered that the above explanation concerning the pronunciation of the *i* or *y* was indispensable, because the circumstance that the name had been spelt at this early period with the interchangeable letters *i* or *y* must have been brought to the notice of the Heralds at their Visitation to Cambridgeshire in 1619. In a contemporary copy of the Record made by the Heralds, now preserved among the MSS. at the British Museum, John Leete, of Eversden, is described as "John Leete alias Lite," and so also are his son William and grandson Gyles. The record referred to is here reproduced. It exhibits the Leete Arms with three lighted fuses.

From the VISITATION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE, 1619, Harl. 1043, fol. 87 b, in British Museum.



EXTRACTS  
RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF LEETE  
*FROM ANCIENT RECORDS.*

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DOMESDAY BOOK.

The circumstances under which this famous National Record came into existence are related in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. According to the coeval writer of that portion of the Chronicle which embraces the rule over England of William the Conqueror, in the year 1085, "the King had a great consultation and spoke very deeply with his witan concerning his land, how it was held and what were its tenantry. He then sent his men over all England, into every shire, and caused them to ascertain how many hundred hides of land it contained, and what lands the King possessed therein, what cattle there were in the several counties, and how much revenue he ought to receive yearly from each. He also caused them to write down how much land belonged to his Archbishops, to his bishops, his abbats and his earls, and, that I may be brief, what property every inhabitant of all England possessed in land or in cattle, and how much money this was worth. So very narrowly did he cause the survey to be made, that there was not a single hide nor a rood of land, nor—it is shameful to relate that which he thought no shame to do—was there an ox, or a cow, or a pig passed by, and that was not set down in the accounts, and then all these writings were brought to him."

Domesday Book presents to us, in a condensed form, the grand result of the numerous local enquiries made by King William's Commissioners throughout his conquered realm. Their original reports consisted of notes of the sworn evidence, taken on the spot, of persons who, not being able to write, could express names only by their sounds. These different sounds were then represented in writing by various clerks, who, after their fashion, endeavoured to Latinize them. This accounts for that singular diversity in the spelling of names of persons, and places, which prevails throughout Domesday Book.

**Let.**—"GLOWECSTSCIRE." "*Terra Regis.*"

"In Chenemertone tenuit . **Let** . VIII . hid̄ 7 ̄ erāt. Modo ten Girard⁹. 7 ibi ht. III. cař. 7 XIII. uif̄ cū. VI cař. Ibi VIII. serui. 7 III. molini de. XV. solid̄. Valuit. VIII. liḡ. Modo. VI. liḡ."

*Translation.* "*Gloucestershire.—Land of the King.*"

"In Chenemerton **Let** held eight hides (of land) and it was a Manor. Girard now holds (the lordship); and he has there three ox-teams, & (there are) fourteen villans with six ox-teams. There (also are) eight serfs, & three Mills (yielding an annual rent) of fifteen shillings. (In the time of King Edward the Manor) was worth £8 (*per annum*), now £6." *Domesday, Vol. I. fol. 163, b.*

**Leit.**—The following statement is recorded in *Domesday*, under "*Bochingh̄scire*:"

"*Terra Ep̄i Baiocensis.*" "*In Stodfald Hd̄.*"

"Turstiñ ten̄ de ep̄o Foxescote . . . . Val 7 ualuit sēp. III. liḡ. Hoc ̄ tenuit **Leit** teiḡñ. R. E. 7 uende potuit."



*Translation.*

“*Buckinghamshire.*”

“*Land of the Bishop of Bayeux.*” “*In Stodfald Hundred.*”

“Turstin holds of the Bishop, Foxescote . . . . . It is and was worth (both before & after the Conquest) always three pounds (annually). This Manor **Leit** a thane of King Edward (formerly) held, & he could sell (it).  
*Vol. I. fol. 144, b.*

**Leit** is described in the above extract from Domesday Book as a thane of the Anglo-Saxon King Edward. He must have occupied that high position before the death of the Confessor King, Jan<sup>y</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1066.

The Bishop of Bayeux, upon whom the Conqueror bestowed the rich Buckinghamshire manor of Foxecote, which in Saxon times had been held by **Leit**, was none other than Odo, the recalcitrant half-brother of King William the First.

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## PEDES FINIUM.

**Lete.**—In the 10th year of the reign of King John, A.D. 1209, four actions-at-law relating to lands at Mordon (now Morden) in Cambridgeshire, were brought before the Justices Itinerant, then sitting in the King's Court at Cambridge. The Plaintiffs in all these actions were Gerard the son of **Lete** or Letie, and Sama the daughter of Wulfric. The Defendants were, in the *first action*, William de Fonte; *second*, Roger son of Robert; *third*, Reiner son of Roger; and *fourth*, Julia the wife or widow of Robert de Gatewell. Of these ancient legal proceedings the “Final Concords” are preserved among the documents known as *Pedes Finium*, at the Record Office, London. On two of the parchments the name is spelt **Lete**, on the other two Letie. One of these ancient

In cheusareione tenuit. let. viii. hid. 7 anqat. Modo  
ten Girard. 7 ibi hē. iii. cap. 7 xiiii. uill. cū. hū. cap. lvi. viii.  
serui. 7 iii. molini de. xx. solid. Valuit. viii. lib. modo. vi. lib.

Photograph of the first extract from Domesday Book, printed on page 7.

**I**ursum ten de epo foxescote. p. vi. hō se deſit  
tra. E. iij. car. In dñio. ii. ſun. 7 un' uells cū. ii. bord  
hñs. ii. car. lbi. i. ſerū. 7 pñ. iii. car. Silua. xxx.  
porc. Val 7 ualuat ſep. iii. lib. hoc aū tenur ltr  
reign. s. E. 7 uende potuit.

The first and last paragraphs of this Domesday entry are given on pages 7 and 8.

PEDES FINIUM.

[illegible]

Photographed from the original record of the Final Agreement between Gerard son of Lete, etc., printed on pages 9 and 10.



instruments is here subjoined, printed with all its Latin contractions, as in the original; and the translation. This venerable record will be scanned with interest by members of the Family of Leete, exhibiting, as it does, a very early example of their surname, spelt **Lete**.

A.D 1209. *Final Agreement in Suit:—Gerard son of Lete & Sama dau. of Woluric, V. Wm. de Fonte.* (File 7. No. 14.)

“H̄ est final concord f̄ca in Cuř Dñi Reġ apud Kanř die m'cuř p̄x p̄ festu S̄i Andř anno regni Reġ Johis Xº corā Geř dē Bannilř Wiffo de Huntingfeld magro Eustač de Faucūberge Jacob de pot'ne Walfo de Creppinge, Roř de Armař, Wiffo de Furnilř justic̄ Itin'antibz ř aliis Baronibz dñi Reġ tūc ibi p̄sentibz Inř Geř sit **Lete** ř Sama fil of Wlfric petentes p Baldrīc de Senegreia posit loco ipius Same ad lucrānd řl p̄dend ř Wiflm de fonte tenente de t'cia pte uni' řgat řfe cū p̄tiñ in Mordon Vñ recognit̄ de morte añcessoris suñmoniř fuit inř eos in p'fat Cuř Scilt řd p'dēi Geř ř Same recognoveř totā p'dcam trā cū p̄tiñ ēē ius ipius Wifli Et p hac recognit̄ ř fine ř concord p'dc̄s Wifls concessit p'dc̄is Geř ř Same tres acř terř ř dimid ř q'ta ptem uni' Rod cū p̄tiñ Scilt in campo de Mordon v'sus occidentē Habend ř tenend ipis Gerard ř Samē ř fiedibz ipor Same ř Geř de p'dcō Willo ř fiedibz suis in ppet p libum s'vič nonē denař ř uni' q'dranř p annū Reddend ad q'tuor t'minos anni S̄cil ad pasch̄ duos denař ř q'drant ř ad festū S̄ci Johis Bap̄ duos denař ř qu'drnt ř ad festu S̄ci Mich̄ duos denař ř q'drnt ř ad festū S̄ci Andř duos denař ř oř p oīni s'vič salvo forinseco servič.”

*Translation.* “This is the final agreement made in the Court of the Lord King at Cambridge on Wednesday next after the feast of St. Andrew in the year of the reign of King John 10 before Gerard de Bannill, William de Huntingfeld, magistrates, Eustace de Faulconbridge, James de Poterne, Walter de Creppinge, Robert de Armar, William de Furnell, justiciars Itinerant, and others the Barons of the Lord King, then there present, Between Gerard son of **Lete** and Sama daughter of Wulfric petitioners by Baldric de Senegreia in the place of the said Sama to gain or lose, and William de Fonte tenant of a third part of one virgate of land with the appurtenances in Mordon. Whereupon 'recognizance of death of ancestors' was summoned between them in the said Court, Namely, that the aforesaid Gerard and Sama

acknowledged all the aforesaid land with the appurtenances to be the right of him William, And for this acknowledgment and fine and agreement the aforesaid William granted to the aforesaid Gerard and Sama,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land, and a quarter of a part of one rood with the appurtenances namely in the field of Mordon towards the west To have and to hold to them Gerard and Sama and the heirs of them, Gerard and Sama, of the aforesaid William and his heirs in perpetuity by free service and nine pence and one quarter per annum, paying at the four terms of the year, That is, at Easter two pence and a quarter, at the feast of St. John the Baptist two pence and a quarter, and at the feast of St. Michael two pence and a quarter, and at the feast of St. Andrew two pence and a half-penny for all service except foreign service."

It should be noted that the above, and also the three other "Final Concords" cited, all refer to land situate within a few miles of that part of Cambridgeshire, whence eventually proceeded the two great branches of the Family of Leete, those of Eversden and Oakington.

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### ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM PEDES FINIUM.

Members of the Leete Family are also named in the same class of legal documents, in connection with the undermentioned places, thus :—

- A.D. 1228. 12 Hen. III. "Agnes filia **Lette**" (Agnes daughter of Lette): Graveley Hertfordshire.
- „ 1273. 2 Edw. I. "Rog<sup>o</sup>s de **Leyt**" (Roger de Leyt): Lynton Parva, Cambridgeshire.
- „ 1278. 6 Edw. I. Raðs de **Litte**" (Radmund de Litte): Cruce Roys. (Royston), Cambridgeshire.
- „ 1370 & 1371. 43 & 44 Edw. III. "Matñ **Lety**": Blakemere and Manor of Pansanger, Hertfordshire.

A.D. 1418. 5 Hen. V. "Johes **Lete**": Uggeburgh, Devonshire.

„ 1548-9 (Hilary Term). 2 Edw. VI. "Robert **Leete**, gent. and Chrstr. Brown (Plaintiffs),—Anth. Randall, gent. next of kin & heir of James Randall, gent. dec<sup>d</sup>., late of Baldok & Susanna his wife (Defendants). Manor of Kyrkbys alias Kyrkbyes & messuage lands & rent in Asshwell & Henxworth": Hertfordshire.

By the above action the Manor of Kyrkbyes, etc., were purchased by Robt. **Leete**, gent. and Chrstr. Brown in 1548. For an account of the said Manor see *Cussans* Hist. of Herts. Vol. I, Hundred of Odsey, p. 32.

## ROTULI LITTERARUM CLAUSARUM.

The *Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum* or Close Rolls contain the enrolments of all Mandates, Letters and Writs, of a private nature, addressed in the King's name to individuals. These "Litteræ Clausæ" or Letters Close were folded or *closed up*; and hence the name applied, from ancient time, to this class of our National Records.

The originals of these extracts from the Close Rolls and other ancient documents, preserved in the Record Office, London, may be traced by the regnal years of the Kings named in the entries. By the same means they will also be found in the corresponding publications of the Record Office; some in Latin facsimile, others translated into English.

### Translations from the original contracted Latin.

"[In the 15th year (of the reign) of (King) John.]

A.D. 1213. The King to Peter de Malo Lacu, and Brian de Insula, etc. We command you that you come to us, with Hugh de Boves, and other

our lieges who are with you, and with our ships as quickly as you can. And you, Peter, give assistance to the companions of Hugh de Boves, namely, **Peter de Delette** and Nicholas and William de Haia towards furnishing their ships, and acquit Thomas de Galwey of the wages, viz. of four knights and 15 squires for 15 days but not by name of wages. Witness I myself at Beram, 26th day of June."

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PETER DELETE or de LETES, & his brothers, **KNIGHTS**.

"[In the 15th year (of the reign) of (King) John.]

A.D. 1213. The King to the Sheriff of Norfolk greeting. We command you that the manor of Wyhton which belonged to William de Kau you divide into two equal halves, and likewise the corn, and one half, with the capital messuage, you cause to go to our beloved Geoffrey de Lucy, and the other half to **Peter de Delete** and his **two brothers, Knights**, which we give to them to maintain themselves in our service. But if there shall be so many houses on the capital messuage that the said Geoffrey can spare one, you shall cause the said Peter and his brothers to have one, for storing their harness (or arms). Witness, I myself, at Pontefract, nineteenth day of Sept<sup>r</sup>. in the fifteenth year (of my reign)."

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"[In the 16th year of (the reign of King) John.]

A.D. 1215. The King to Philip Marc, etc. We send to you William Roillard, **Peter de Letes**, **Radmund de Letes**, Radmund de Wyme, Ernald de Waverans, Oliver de Punchard, **Knights**, commanding that their bodies may lie by night in our Castle of Nottingham, and their horses and harness lie within the bailiwick, and when you shall send to us for the cost of those who are now in your keeping, we will send you money for their necessity. And observe well that they have arms and harness as knights ought to have. Witness, I myself, at Selveston, the 17th day of February."

In the contracted Latin of the original document this entry appears thus :—

“[An. 16<sup>o</sup> Johann.]

Rex Philippo Marč ťč. Mittin<sup>o</sup> ad vos Wiſſm Roillard, **Petr<sup>o</sup> de Letes**, **Rađm de Letes**, Rađm de Wyme, Ernald de Waſanš, Oliſum de Punchard **Milites**, mandantes qđ eor corpa jaceant de nocte in castro nřo de Notingeſi, ť equi illor ť ťnesia jaceant inf<sup>a</sup> baillum, ť cū ad nos miseritis p denař ad op<sup>o</sup> illor q<sup>i</sup> nūc penes vos sūt, mittin<sup>o</sup> voſ denař ad op<sup>o</sup> illor put eos ʔtinget. Videatis aũ bñ qđ fiant arma ť ťnesia sič milites hře deſnt. T. me iřo ařd Selvestoň, xvij. die Febr̃.”

“[In the 16th year of (the reign of King) John.]

A.D. 1215. The King, etc., to the Sheriff of Nottingham, greeting. Know that we grant to **Peter de Elettes** twenty marks of land, and to **Nicholas de Elettes** fifteen librates, and to **Walter de Elettes** fifteen librates of land, which belonged to Henry de Baylloř, and therefore we command you, that you cause these lands to be assigned to them of that land in your bailiwick, without delay. Witnessed by the lord Peter, Bishop of Winchester, at Feismantell, the twenty-fourth day of October.”

“[In the 17th year of (the reign of King) John.]

*Land.*

A.D. 1216. The King to the Sheriff of Nottingham, etc. Know that we have committed during our pleasure to our dear and faithful **Peter de Delettis** and **his brothers** the manor of Skermiton with appurtenances which belonged to William de Albiniac, and therefore we command you that you cause that manor to be held by the same Peter and his brothers without delay; and the mandate to the Constable of Beuveir is that he releases it to him in peace. Witness, I myself, at Windsor, 4th day of April.”



“ [In the 18th year of (the reign of King) John.]

A.D. 1216. It is ordered to **Peter, Nicholas and Walter de Lettres** that they render to Agatha wife of William de Albinac the manor of Skerinton which the lord King committed to them in the soke of Oskinton. Witness the King at White Minster, the 8th day of August.”

---

“ [In the 18th year of (the reign of King) John.]

A.D. 1216. It is ordered to Philip Marc that of the lands of the enemies of the lord King in his bailiwick he provides for **Peter, Nicholas & Walter de Lettres**, the value of the Manor of Skerinton which the lord King committed to them in the soke of Oskinton. Witness,” as above.

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“ [In the 18th year of (the reign of King) John.]

A.D. 1216. The King to Philip Marcus, etc. Know that we concede to **Peter de Lettres** and **his brothers** all the land which was William de St. Michael's in place of the land of William de Albinac which we had previously assigned to them. And therefore we command you that without delay you cause them to have full seizin thereof in your bailiwick. And that you also convey to Ernulph de Waverans the land which belonged to Robert de Hareston, etc. Witness, myself at Oxford, the 3rd day of September.”

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“ [In the 18th year of (the reign of King) John.]

A.D. 1216. It is ordered to the Sheriff of Nottingham that **Peter de Lettres** and **his brothers** have the residue of that land which is in the hand of the lord King in the town which was William de St. Michael's which the lord King previously gave them. Witness the King at Sunnington, the 13th day of September.”

"[In the 1st year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third.]

A.D. 1217. Land given { The lord King gave to **Peter and Nicholas de**  
without letters { **Lettes** the land which was Ralph Teissun's with its  
(or Charters). { appurtenances in Wattlelee without letters."

## PETER & NICHOLAS DE DELETTRES, CRUSADERS.

"[In the 4th year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third.]

A.D. 1220. The King to the venerable father in Christ by the same grace  
Archbishop of York and Primate of England greeting.

Our Council recollects and holds in remembrance that the town of Wetelegh with its appurtenances which John Malherb obtained in his life by gift of the lord the King John, our father ; of the gift of the same afterwards our beloved and faithful Roger de Monte Begonis obtained it to be held for his life and the King our father committed the office of bailiff of the said town in the time of war to **Peter and Nicholas de Delettres, crusaders**. On the restoration of peace the said Roger had seisin as before of the said town and entered upon it according to the common form of the peace. Since therefore the said town ought to yield to the said Roger for his whole life on the grant of the lord King John our father, and the aforesaid **Peter and Nicholas** had nothing in it except the office of bailiff which terminated at the peace, and from this can claim no right to themselves, we order you not to attempt to carry out a sentence of excommunication on the said Roger by any occasion of an office of bailiff of this kind exercised by the said **crusaders**."

This mandate, relating to the Crusading Knights Peter and Nicholas de Letes or Delettres, runs as follows in the original:—

"[An 4<sup>o</sup> Hen. III.]

D'villa de Wetelgh Rex veñabili pñi in Xpo W. eadē gñā Ebor Archieps ī Angl Priñ  
sañ. Consiliū nñm recolit ī memoriā tenet qđ villā de Wetelegh cū  
ptñ qā Joñs Malherb optinuit in vita sua de dono dñi J. Reğ pñs

nři, de dono ejusdē postea obtinuit dilcūs ĩ fidei nři Rogerſ de Monte Begonis tota vita sua possidendā ĩ ejusdē ville balliū cōmisit idē Rex při nři tēpe guerre **Petro ĩ Nīcho de Delettres crucesignatīs**, pácē Vº reformata idē Rogerſ saisinā qā prius habuit de pđca villa ingssus est scdm cōmunē formā pacis. Quoniā vº dicta villa debet ipi Rogſo cedere tota vita sua ex cōcessionē dñi J. Reġ při nři pđca, ĩ pđci **Petrº ĩ Nicholaus** nich in ea habuerūt nisi balliū qđ fca pace evanuit ĩ ex hoc nich juris sibi possunt vindicare, voſ mandanſ ne ocčone hujº mod ballii habiti a pđcis **crucesignatīs** u ipm Rogerū excomuničois ferre sentenciā attēptetis."

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"[In the 5th year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third.]

A.D. 1221. Concerning the } The King to the Sheriff of Nottingham,  
Manor of Wattelee. } greeting. We command you that without  
delay you cause **Nicholas de Lettres** to have full seizin of the manor  
of Wattelee as the same Nicholas and his brothers formerly held it.  
Tested at Westminster the 27th day of January," etc.

---

"[In the 10th year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third.]

A.D. 1226. **Nicholas de Delettres** attorned William de Cruce against William de Heddou for customs and services which the same Nicholas demands from the aforesaid William for a free tenant who holds of him in Heddou. To the Sheriff of Nottingham."

---

"[In the 10th year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third.]

A.D. 1226. The King to the Justices of his Bench greeting. We command you that the Assize of novel disseisin that Roger de Monte Begonis arraigned against **Nicholas de Lettres** for holding of Wetleya you place in delay until the eighth after Easter. Witness," etc.

---

"[In the 12th year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third.]

A.D. 1228. **Nicholas de Lettres** attorned Walter de Claworth against Nicholas and Galfrid le Macun "*de placito nativitatis*," etc.

“[In the 12th year of (the reign of King) Henry the Third].

A.D. 1228. Augi, Countess. Manor of Watel, which **Nich. de Lettres** holds.  
(Nott.) 21 July.”

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## CHARTER ROLLS.

A.D. 1228. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 16. Westminster. Grant to **Nicholas de Lettres**, and his  
13 Henry III. heirs of the Manor of Bingham, late of Fulk Paynel, which the said  
Nicholas previously had of the King's bail, until the King shall restore it  
to the heirs of the said Fulk of his free will or by a peace, rendering  
therefor the service thereto pertaining; and if the King restore the said  
manor, he will make to the said Nicholas a reasonable exchange in  
wards or escheats; saving to the King the advowson of the Church of  
the same manor.

---

A.D. 1231. Aug<sup>t</sup>. 14. Painscastle. Gift to **Nicholas de Lettres**, and his heirs,  
15 Henry III. of the Manor of Ippelen, late of Ralph de Meudlent, to hold by the  
service of the fee of half a Knight, until the King restore it to the right  
heirs of his free will or by a peace, whereupon he shall make to the  
said Nicholas a reasonable exchange in wards or escheats.

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A.D. 1235. Grant to Amaury de Sancto Amando, and his heirs, saving to any  
19 Henry III. man his right, of the manor of Iplepenn, which **Nicholas de Letteres**  
previously held of the King's bail, to hold until the King restore it to  
the heirs of the said Nicholas of his free will or by a peace.

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## TESTA DE NEVILL.

The ancient Record, known as “Testa de Nevill,” comprises  
transcripts of Inquisitions which had been taken during the reigns  
of Henry III and Edward I, that is, between the years 1216 and  
1307.

Notingham  
Bingham our  
Wapentake. { The Vill of Wetele is an escheat of the lord king and is worth thirty pounds a year. **Nicholas de Lettres** holds the same for the lord King John.

---

Nottingham and  
Derbyshire. { The vill of Lindeby is an escheat of the lord King of the honor of Peverell of Notingham and William de St. Michael of London has half of that vill by gift of King John rendering thence yearly into the King's exchequer one skin of a gris\* and that half is worth 7l. 6s. annually. And **Peter de Lettris** and **his brothers** have the other half by similar gift of the lord the King because they had long pleased the lord King and that half was worth 7l. 6s.

---

"Devon".  
Hundr' de  
Haytorr. { Dñs Rad' de Meulent tenet maner' de Ippolepenn de dño Rege in capite post coronaçoem dñi Reg'. Et q, Rad' de Meulent nō venit ad excitū dñi Reg' qñdo dñs Rex fuit in Britannia dñs Rex dedit dēm maner' **Nicho de Lettres** qui illud maner' tenuit tota vita sua: " etc.

*Translation.*

Devonshire  
Hundred of  
Haytorr. { The lord Ralph de Meulent holds the manor of Ippolepenn from the lord King in chief since the coronation of the lord King. And because Ralph de Meulent did not come to the army of the lord King when the lord King was in Brittany the lord King gave the said manor to **Nicholas de Lettres** who held that manor during the rest of his life.

---

"Lincoln"  
Wapent' de  
Boby. { Inquisicio fca in wapent' de Boby p saçmentu hor. sub. scptor. scil. **Joh'is de Lettres** " (and other Jurors).

*Translation.*

Lincolnshire  
Wapentake of  
Boby. { Inquisition made in the wapentake of Boby by the oaths of these subscribers namely **John de Lettres**, etc.

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\* *Gris*: a kind of weasel, or little beast of a bluish colour.

## ROTULI HUNDREDORUM.

The important series of National Records known as Rotuli Hundredorum, The Hundred Rolls, contain the Inquisitions taken by virtue of two special Commissions issued in the second and seventh years of Edward I, by which certain Commissioners were empowered to summon juries to enquire as to the King's prerogatives and royalties, and into the frauds and abuses connected therewith.

<i>Rolls</i> of the <i>Hundreds :</i> <i>County of Devon.</i> Time of Edw. I. A.D. 1272-1307.	}	“ <i>Ippellapenne.</i> ” “And for a certain transgression which (Ralph de Mullond) committed against our lord King John the same King took from him that manor and gave it to the lord <b>Nicholas de Lettres</b> who lived long and held it for his whole life and died without heir of his body in the time of Henry father of the present King,” etc.
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*Compare the above with the preceding entry relating to ‘Ippolepenn.’*

<i>Rolls, etc.</i> <i>Co. Camb.</i> A.D. 1272-1307.	}	We say that the Prior of Bernewelle has in free tenants in the vill of Fendr'yto seven virgates of land of the fee of Robert Furniwas and of <b>John Delet</b> rendering to the same freely fifteen shillings and fourpence annually in pure alms.
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<i>Rolls, etc.</i> <i>Co. Bedford.</i> A.D. 1272-1307.	}	“ <i>Stachedene.</i> ” “In the same town . . . . <b>Nicholas</b> son of <b>Lete</b> (holds) half a virgate.”
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<i>Rolls, etc.</i> <i>Co. Bedford.</i> A.D. 1272-1307.	}	“ <i>La Leye.</i> ” “Richard de la Leye holds in the same town half a hide of the honour of Beauchamp of Bedford . . . . . Of he has in demesne a hundred acres of land. . . . . Of which <b>Geoffrey Lete</b> (holds) one quarter,” etc.
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*Rolls, etc.*  
*Co. Suffolk.*  
 A.D. 1272-1307.

} **Walter Lete** (Walt' Lete) occurs under the Hundred of  
 Waynesford, in the hundred-rolls of the County of Suffolk,  
 in the reign of Edward the First.

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*Rolls, etc.*  
*Co. Oxford.*  
 A.D. 1272-1307.

} **Roger Lete** (Roḡs Lete) is named among the "Servi" of  
 Aston, in the Hundred of Bampton, Co. Oxford, temp. Edw. I.

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## INQUISITIONS POST MORTEM.

The records known as "Inquisitiones Post Mortem" or "Escheats," consist mainly of inquests held on the death of the King's tenants in capite by the appointed escheator, who, by virtue of a Writ "de diem clausit extremum" to him directed, summoned a jury to enquire upon oath of what lands, etc., such a tenant was seized at the time of his death, and the rent or service by which they were held; and also the name and age of the next heir; in order that the King might be duly informed of his right of escheat, or wardship, etc.

*Co. Lincoln,*  
 time of Edw. I.  
 A.D.  
 1272-1307.

} "**Henricus de Letters.**  
 In eadem villa (de Boby) maner' pro dimid' feod'."  
**Henry de Letters.**  
 In the same vill (of Boby, held of the King) the manor for  
 half a Knight's fee.

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## NONARUM INQUISITIONES.

In 1341-2 the Parliament of England granted to King Edward the Third, the Ninth Lamb, the Ninth Fleece, and the Ninth Sheaf, "to be taken by two years then next to come": and of Cities and Boroughs the Ninth Part of all their Goods and Chattels

to be taken by the same two years, "in aid of the good keeping of this Realm, as well by land as sea, and of his wars, as well against the Parts of Scotland, the parts of France, Gascoyne, and elsewhere."

A.D. 1341-2. COM' CANTEBR' (Cambridgeshire) :—

Under "Arvyngton" (Arrington), among the jurors occurs '**Robti Lete.**'

Under 'COM' BED' (Bedfordshire) :—

**Hugon' Lete** poch' de Henlowe." (*Hugh Lete of the Parish of Henlow.*)

Under 'COM' NORTH'T (Northamptonshire) :—

"*Aston.*—**Wills Leyt,**" etc.

Under 'COM' HERT :—"Hertfordyngburi," (Hertfordshire) occurs "**Johis Lety.**"

Under 'COM' SUFF' (Suffolk) :—

*Havirhull.*"—"Wills atte Lete," was the name of one of the Jurors.

## ROTULORUM PATENTIIUM.

The Patent Rolls are the formal enrolments of those "Litteræ Patentēs" or Letters Patent, which, being of a *public* as distinguished from a private nature, were, as their name implies, written upon *open*, that is unfolded, sheets of parchment; with an impression of the Great Seal pendent at the bottom. The Patent Rolls of Plantagenet times embrace documents of a very varied character.

A.D. 1217. "Rex omnibus has litteras inspecturis, salutem. Sciatis quod  
 1 Henry III. **Petrus de Letres, Nicholaus et Walterus, fratres sui,** bene et fideliter nobis servierunt, et eorum servicium plurimum commendamus. Dedimus autem eis licenciam eundi in peregrinacionem suam in terram Jerosolimitanam, ad communem mocionem cruce signatorum. Et in hujus rei testimonium, etc. Teste, apud Notingham, vij die Januarii. anno regni nostri primo."



*Translation.*—The King to all who these letters shall inspect, greeting. Know that **Peter de Letres, Nicholas, and Walter, his brothers**, have served us well and faithfully, and their services we very much commend. We give, moreover, to them licence to go their journey abroad into the land of Jerusalem, at the general movement of the Crusaders. And in testimony of this, etc., Witness (I myself), at Notingham, the 7th day of January, in the first year of our reign.

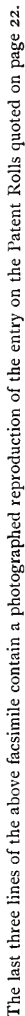
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A.D. 1217.      “Rex omnibus has litteras inspecturis, salutem. Sciatis quod licenciam dedimus **Petro de Lettes, Nicholao et Waltero, fratribus suis**, quod terras suas invadient usque ad terminum crucesignatis indultum. Ita tamen quod, tactis sacrosanctis ewangeliiis, nos securos faciant quod ab Anglia non recedent, sine licencia nostra, ante generalem motum crucesignatis prefixum et statutum. Et in hujus rei testimonium has litteras nostras patentes, etc., eisdem **Petro, Nicholao et Waltero** fieri fecimus. Teste comite, apud Oxoniam, xvj die Januarii, anno regni nostri primo.”

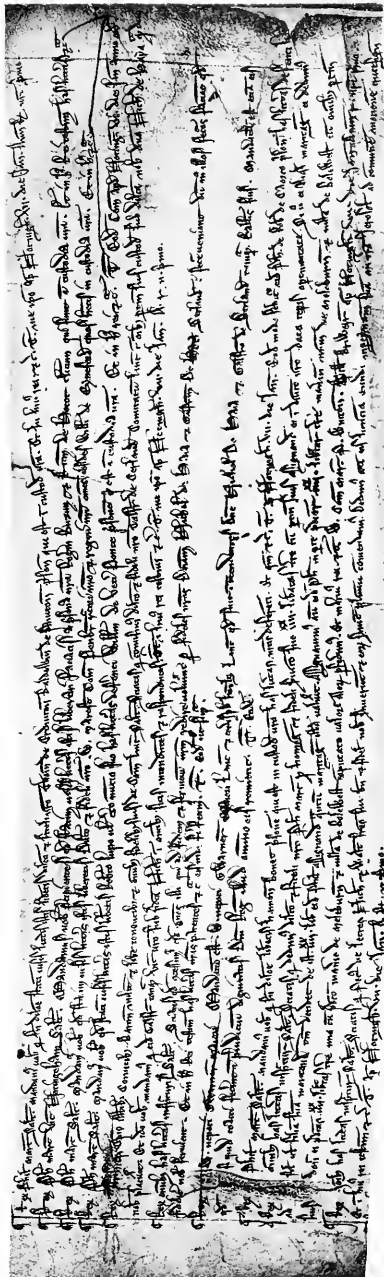
*Translation.*—The King to all who shall inspect these letters, greeting. Know that we have given licence to **Peter de Lettes, Nicholas & Walter, his brothers**, that they may pledge their lands until the term fixed for the Crusaders. So, nevertheless that, laying hand on the Holy Gospels, they make us sure that they will not depart from England without our licence, before the general movement previously fixed and appointed for the Crusaders. And in testimony of this, these our letters patent, etc., to the same **Peter, Nicholas and Walter**, we have caused to be made. Witness: the Earl (of Pembroke), at Oxford,—16<sup>th</sup> day of January, in the first year of our Reign.

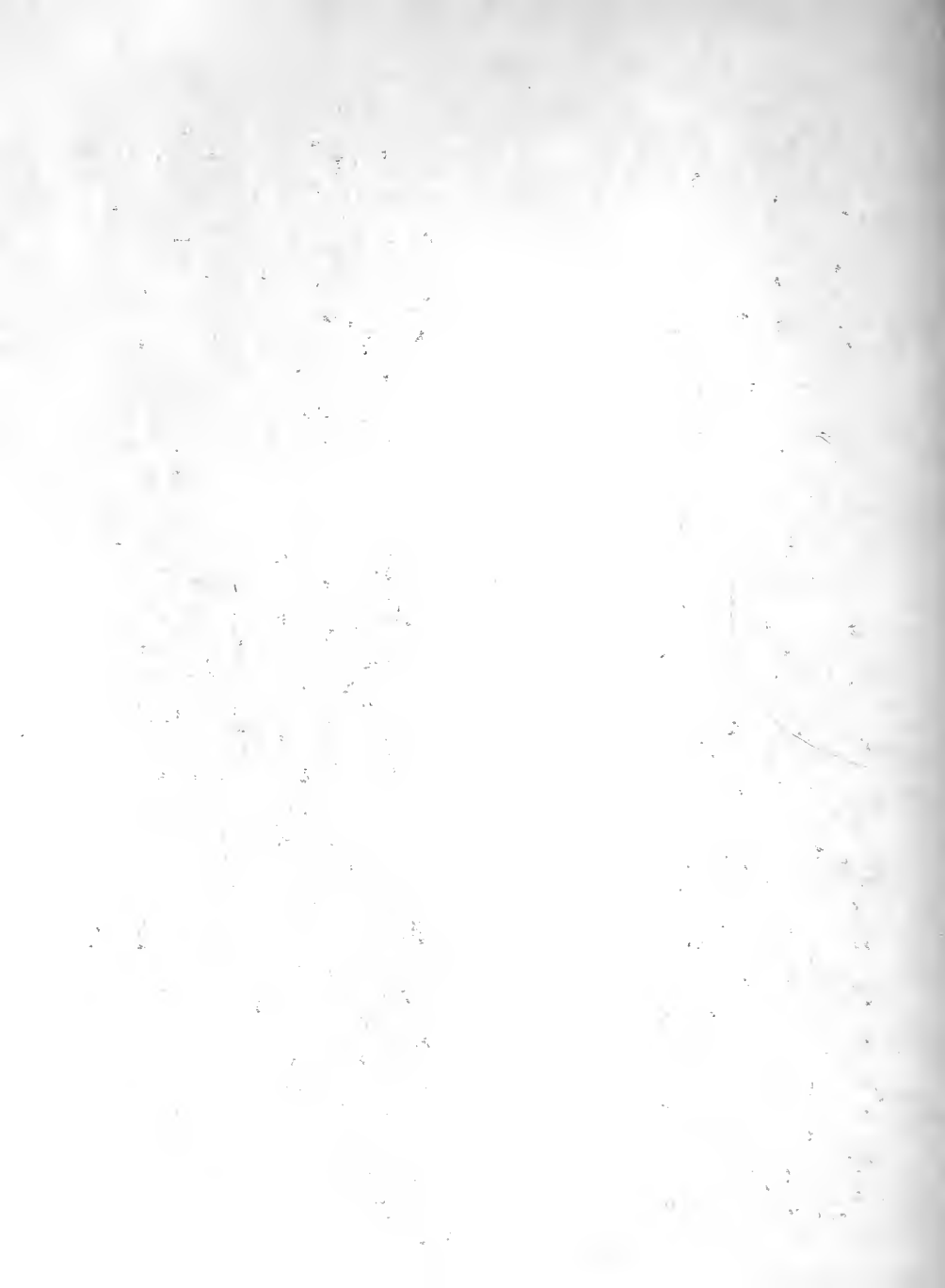
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A.D. 1224.      *Notingham.* Adam of New Market, John de Birkin, John de Daivill, & William de Cressi are appointed Justices at the Assize of *Morte d'Ancestor* (death of Ancestor) holden at Notingham in the Octave of the Assumption of the Blessed Mary; & summons is before the Justices at the first Assize, when into these parts they shall come, between Eudo de Lungvilers, plaintiff, & **Nicholas de Lettres**, holder of the vill of Wetele with its appurtenances. Witness by the King, at Bedford, the 29th day of July.



The last two lines of the facsimile beneath embrace the original record on the Patent Rolls concerning the Crusading Knights Peter de Lettes, Nicholas and Walter, his brothers, printed on page 21.





A.D. 1229. *Nicholaus de Lettres.* His name is mentioned third on a list of  
 13 Henry III. forty-two Knights, in a safe-conduct granted by Henry the Third, and  
 witnessed by the King himself, at Portsmouth, on the nineteenth day of  
 October, in the thirteenth year of his reign. "*Teste me ipso, apud  
 Portesmue, XIX die Octobris, anno regni nostri xiiij.*" The expedition  
 was ordered abroad by the King, "*in partibus transmarinis per  
 preceptum nostrum.*"

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A.D. 1229      *Nicholas de Lettres* is named, along with many others, in connec-  
 & 1230.      tion with an expedition beyond sea.  
 13 & 14  
 Henry III.

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A.D. 1230.      *For Nicholas de Lettres.* The King to all whom this present  
 14 Henry III. letter shall come before, greeting. Know that we grant to **Nicholas  
 de Lettres** that we will not give up to Fulk Paynel the Manor of  
 Bingham, which the same Nicholas holds of our bailiwick, nor shall he  
 himself otherwise be removed from that place until for the value of that  
 Manor an equivalent shall have been made to him in escheats, or  
 wardships. In this, etc., Witness: the King.

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A.D. 1230.      *For Nicholas de Lettres.* **Nicholas de Lettres** is granted similar  
 14 Henry III. letters for the Manor of Ippelepenn, which Ralph de Meulent held, to  
 have & to hold during his life-time, etc.

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A.D. 1230.      "Pro **Ricō de Lettres** de maner' de Bingham."  
 14 Henry III. For **Richard de Lettres** on account of the Manor of Bingham.

<p>A.D. 1282.                  10 Edward I.</p>	{	<p>Aug. 6. "Commission of oyer and terminer to John de                  Reygate, etc., on complaint by Edmund de Mortuo Mari, that                  Henry de la Sale. . . . . <b>Robert Let, Hugh Let,</b> and                  others, rescued certain cattle, which his servants were by his                  orders impounding, and wounded and maltreated his said                  servants." <i>Rhuddlan.</i></p>
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A.D. 1303. "31. Edw. I. **Richard le Lyte** and the Monks of Swaffham held in Toft & Cumberton half a Kn<sup>t</sup> ffee of the Bishop of Ely."

Swaffham Bolebeck, in Cambridgeshire. Here was a Priory.

*Cole MSS.* Vol. xxii, fol. 174.

A.D. 1474. **John Lite** (Johem Lite de Glasgue thes') mentioned in a *Salvus Conductus pro Ambassiatoribus Scotiae*, tested at Westminster, 29th March.

Reign of K. Edw. IV. *Rotuli Scotiae*, Memb. 13.

## SUBSIDY ROLLS.—CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

A.D. 1326-27. 1 Edw. III. Robtus fil Lete of Toft.

A.D. 1522-23. 14-15 Hen. VIII.

Kingston.	John Lette	.	.	.	in goods	£6.
Hokynton.	Thomas Lete	.	.	.	" "	£3.
Cottenham.	John Lete	.	.	.	" "	£3.
"	Agnes Lete	.	.	.	" "	£3.
"	Henry Lete	.	.	.	" wages	£2.
Comberton.	Thomas Leete	.	.	.	" "	£1.
"	Henry Leete	.	.	.	" goods	£4.
Cambridge.	John Lete	.	.	.	" "	£2.
Shelford Mag.	John Lett	.	.	.	" wages	£1.
" Pva.	John Leete	.	.	.	" "	£1.

A.D. 1540-41. 32 Hen. VIII.

Eversden Pva. John Lete.

A.D. 1542-43. 34-35 Hen. VIII.

Eversden Mag. John Lete.

A.D. 1558-9. 1 Elizabeth.

Melborne.	Flower Lete, Widow	.	.	.	" lands	£1.
Eversden,	{ Thomas Lete, Gent.	.	.	.	" "	£3 6s. 8d.
Mag. et Pva.	{ Robert Lete	.	.	.	" goods	£10.

A.D. 1566-7. 8 Elizabeth.

Kingston.	Flower Leete, Widow	.	in lands	£2.
Eversden,	{ Robert Leete . . .	" "	£7.	
Mag. et P <sup>va</sup> .	{ Thomas Leete . . .	" "	£3	6s. 8d.
Okington.	Thomas Leet . . .	" goods	£3.	

A.D. 1571-72. 13 Elizabeth.

Hockington.	Thomas Leete . . .	in goods	£3.	
Huddinham.	Richard Lytte . . .	" "	£5.	
Wysbeche.	Richard Leet . . .	" lands	£1.	
Kingston.	Flower Leete, Widow	" "	£2.	
Eversden.	Robert Leete, Gent.	" goods	£10.	
Barton.	Thomas Leete, Gent.	" lands	£3	6s. 8d.

A.D. 1602-3. 1 James I.

Kingston.	Gyles Leet . . .	" lands	£2.	
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A.D. 1608-9. 7 James I.

Kingston.	Giles Leete, Gent. . .	" "	£2.	
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A.D. 1620-21. 19 James I.

Kingston.	Giles Leet, Gent. . .	" "	£2.	
Oginton.	Richard Leete.			

A.D. 1625. 1 Charles I.

Okington.	Richard Leete. . .	" "	£2.	
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## LAY SUBSIDIES.

A.D. 1524. 15 Hen. VIII. Devon.

Woodbury.	Rich. Lete . . .	goods	40/-	
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## INDEX TO COURT OF REQUESTS.

A.D. 1592. 35 Eliz. "Rob<sup>t</sup> Leete; the Manor of Grensey in Cumberton (Comberton), Camb."

A.D. 1594. 37 Eliz. "Giles Leete of Shelland v. Barnard Veysey ; premises in towns and parishes of Kingston, Ev'den (Eversden) & Toft, in Camb."

The above entry refers to an Action preferred in 1594 in Queen Elizabeth's Court of Requests by Gyles Leete, then resident at Shelland, in Suffolk, for the recovery of the Title Deeds of his paternal Estates in the Parishes of Kingston, Eversden, and Toft, in Cambridgeshire.



## CONTINUITY OF THE FAMILY NAME.

A.D.

1085 { —**Let**, a holder of land prior to the Norman Conquest. } *Domesday*  
 { —**Leit**, a thane of K. Edward the Confessor; living in 1085. } *Book*.

1209—**Lete** or **Letie**, 'Gerard fil,' Plaintiff in various Suits relating to land at Morden, Cambridgeshire. *Pedes Finium*.

1213-30 { —de **Lete**, Peter } Described as brothers, and **Knights Crusaders**.  
 { —de **Lete**, Nicholas } *See Mandates of King John and Henry III;*  
 { —de **Lete**, Walter } *Close Rolls*.  
 { —de **Lete**, Radmund }

1228—**Lette**, Agnes filia, mentioned in connection with Hertfordshire. *Pedes Finium*.

1272-1307 { De**let**, John, named in *Hundred Rolls* of Cambridgeshire.  
 { —**Lete**, Nicholas son of } *Hundred Rolls*, Bedfordshire.  
 { —**Lete**, Geoffrey }  
 { —**Lete**, Walter, *Hundred Rolls*, Suffolk.  
 { —**Lete**, Roger, *Hundred Rolls*, Oxfordshire.

1273—de **Leyt**, Roger, *Pedes Finium*, Cambridgeshire.

1278—de **Litte**, Radmund, *Pedes Finium*, Cambs.

1282 { —**Let**, Robert } *Patent Rolls*.  
 { —**Let**, Hugh }  
 1288—le **Leyt**, John }

1303—le **Lyte**, Richard, held land in Toft and Cumberton, Cambs. *See p. 25*.

1307—du **Lyt**, Roger, *Patent Rolls*.

1326-7—**Lete**, 'Robtus fil,' of Toft, Cambs. (apparently son of the above Richard), assessed to a *Subsidy*.

1330—**Lete**, William, named in connection with Essex. *Patent Rolls*.

1335—**Lete**, Robert, of Holme, *Patent Rolls*.

1339—**Lete**, John, *Patent Rolls*.

- 1341-42 { —Lete, Robert, named among the Jurors of 'Arvyngton,'  
Cambs.  
—Lete, Hugo, under Bedfordshire.  
—Leyt, William, Northamptonshire.  
—Lete, Wills' atte, Suffolk.  
—Lety, John, Hertfordshire. } *Nonarum  
Inquisitiones.*

1370—Lety, Mathew, had a law-suit respecting Blakemere and the Manor of Pansanger, Herts. *Pedes Finium.*

1384—Lety, Robert. *Patent Rolls.*

1418—Lete, John, Devon. *Pedes Finium.*

1442—Lete or Leet, John, Citizen and Member of the Grocers' Company, London. *Will dated 1442, at Somerset House.*

1486—Leete, John, of Thorpe. *Daventry Charters, 256: Bodleian Library.*

1491—Lete, Richard, Rector of S. Nicholas Coldabbey (Cole Abbey) named in *Will of T. Hasyll: at Somerset House.*

1520—Leete, Richard, of Comberton, Cambs. *Will dated circ. 1520.*

- 1522-23 { —Lette, John, Kingston.  
—Lete, Thomas, Oakington.  
—Lete, John, } Cottenham.  
—Lete, Agnes, }  
—Lete, Henry, }  
—Leete, Thomas, } Comberton.  
—Leete, Henry, }  
—Lete, John, Cambridge.  
—Lett, John, Shelford *Magna.*  
—Leete, John, Shelford *Parva.* } *Assessed to Subsidy  
for Cambridgeshire.*

1524—Lete, Richard, of Woodbury. *Assessed to Subsidy, Devon.*

1539—Lete, Elen, *Gentlewoman, stands godmother at Toft, Cambs. 10 Oct., 1539.*

1540-41—Leete, Henry, of Comberton. *Will proved, 1540-41.*

- 1540-41 } —Lete, John. *Assessed to Subsidies for Great & Little Eversden, Cambs.*  
1542-43 }

- 1551—**Let**, John, of Little Eversden, buried: *See p. 66.* Also, at p. 131—  
 —**Let**, Alse, of Oakington.
- 1558-59 { —**Lete**, Flower, Widow, Melbourn,  
 —**Lete**, Thomas, Gent., } Great and Little  
 —**Lete**, Robert, } Eversden.
- 1566-67 { —**Leete**, Flower, Widow, Kingston.  
 —**Leete**, Robert, } Great and Little  
 —**Leete**, Thomas, } Eversden.  
 —**Leet**, Thomas, Oakington.
- 1571-72 { —**Leete**, Thomas, Oakington.  
 —**Lytte**, Richard, Huddingham.  
 —**Leet**, Richard, Wisbech.  
 —**Leete**, Flower, Widow, Kingston.  
 —**Leete**, Robert, Gent., Eversden.  
 —**Leete**, Thomas, Gent., Barton.
- 1602-3—**Leet**, Gyles, Kingston.
- 1608-9—**Leete**, Giles, Kingston.
- 1620-21 { —**Leet**, Giles, Gent., Kingston.  
 —**Leete**, Richard, Oakington.
- 1625—**Leete**, Richard, Oakington.

*Assessed to Subsidy  
for Cambridgeshire.*

We have not extended the above Chronological List to a later period because the extracts from Parish Registers, which were instituted in 1538, are given in full elsewhere; and from these, in conjunction with the Records of the Visitations of the Heralds to Cambridgeshire in 1619, and to Huntingdonshire in 1613 and 1684, the large Genealogical Charts of this Work have been compiled.

## MILITARY ORIGIN OF HERALDRY.

The figures that adorned the shields of Agamemnon and other Chiefs of classic times, with the devices displayed on ancient military standards, although these may have been regarded as the peculiar ensigns of particular persons, were yet changeable at pleasure, and did not descend hereditarily like the insignia of the Middle Ages. True heraldry had its rise during the twelfth century. To our early ancestors it was the outward sign of the Spirit of



NORMAN KNIGHTS.  
*From the Bayeux Tapestry.*

Chivalry. As a rule, heraldic insignia cannot be alienated, or transferred, otherwise than by inheritance or lawful succession.

Hence, the various charges and devices of mediæval Armory form a valuable key wherewith to unlock many a secret of former times.

Although now made use of merely to distinguish families, and as such, of the greatest use in tracing genealogies, Coats of Arms had, as the name imports, a military origin. *Coat-Armour*, as it is called, originated during the Crusades. We look in vain on the Bayeux Tapestry, embroidered at the close of the eleventh century, for any indication that the *Coat of Arms* was known at the date of the Norman Conquest. According to that coeval representation, the knights who fought at Hastings wore coats, apparently of leather, on which were fastened rings of iron, calculated to resist a sword-cut. Clothed in rude hauberks, such as these, the Chivalry of Europe engaged in that first Crusade which resulted in the Capture of Jerusalem from the Mahommedans, in A.D. 1099. The poet Tasso, in his immortal work, has vividly described the sufferings the Crusaders endured from heat and thirst ere they succeeded in liberating the Holy City :—

The sturdy bodies of the warriors strong  
Whom neither marching far, nor tedious way,  
Nor weighty arms, which on their bodies hong,  
Could weary make, nor death itself dismay ;  
Now weak, and feeble, cast their limbs along,  
Unwieldly burdens on the burned clay :

and no wonder! for the fierce Syrian sun, beating on the iron dresses of the Crusaders, utterly exhausted them.

To obviate this evil of the hot rays of the eastern sun thus smiting on their coats of ring-mail, the Christian warriors spread over their hauberks a light garment or *sur-coat*, as it was called, by means of which the sun's rays were reflected. Upon this light over-spreading garment they emblazoned some distinctive mark,

or badge, whereby their followers might know them; it being difficult to identify the knightly crusader when his features were obscured by a nasal helmet, or hid behind his visor barred. This distinctive badge was repeated on the banner or pennon of the knight, and on his shield. After the Crusader had fallen in battle against the Infidel, his son and successor was glad to adopt a badge which had been so gloriously consecrated. This was the origin of Coats of Arms; and thus they came to be hereditarily transmitted.

The grand cross-legged effigies of Crusaders at the Temple Church, London, may be cited as early examples of the appearance of the surcoat or coat-of-arms. In the subjoined sketch of one of these interesting historic monuments, the Crusader is represented clothed from head to foot in his hauberk and *choses*, or stockings, of chain-mail; and above these, a light garment, the knight's coat-of-arms appears, very distinctly.



KNIGHT CRUSADER.

*From the Temple Church, London.*

The badge of the Knights of the Temple of Solomon consisted

of a white garment, on which was wrought a red cross ; and the same being repeated on their Great White Standard and on their shields, by this mark, even amid the tumult of battle, the Templar might easily be recognised.

In the blue tincture and golden lions, painted on the surcoat, and repeated on the shield of the Monumental effigy of the Crusader William Longespée (Long Sword), half-brother to Richard Coeur-de-Leon, in Salisbury Cathedral, may be seen a beautiful early specimen of Heraldry.

In the perpetuation of so warlike an idea as is conveyed by the term *Coat-of-Arms*, and in the fact that heraldic devices are still borne on *Shields*, may plainly be discerned the military origin of heraldry. Knight, Esquire, and Gentleman, words often on modern lips, are in danger of losing their original significance ; yet, in truth, these are neither more, nor less, than relics of the once noble Institution of Chivalry. *Le Gentil-homme* or *Gentle-man* of the olden time was the refined Christian Knight, as distinguished from a rude ruffian. An *Esquire* was the aspirant to knightly honours, who patiently served his apprenticeship to Arms in the Court of his Prince, or the Hall of some neighbouring Baron : the word itself, anciently *escuyer*, is derived from his former occupation of shield-bearer, and indicates that, the Esquire carried his lord's shield, when the Knight himself was not actually engaged in battle. Before being admitted to the honour of Knighthood, an aspirant had to undergo a long previous education, first of *page* or *varlet*, then through several degrees of *esquire*, and finally, after a protracted and fatiguing military training, amidst a solemn religious ceremonial, the Oath of Chivalry was tendered to the Knight ; it was, "*To speak the truth, to succour the helpless and oppressed, and never to turn back from an enemy.*"

It is therefore to the Institution of Chivalry, and its development amidst that stupendous conflict which the mail-clad Knights of Christendom waged against Mahomedan hosts, upon

those holy fields,  
Over whose acres walk'd those blessed feet  
Which, eighteen hundred years ago, were nail'd  
For our advantage, on the bitter cross,

that we must look for the real import of coats and shields of Arms with distinctive badges, and the origin of their hereditary transmission.

The Knights who fought in the earlier Crusades did not have *Grants of Arms*, for, as just explained, Coats of Arms had become a necessity to them. The warrior himself selected as his distinctive mark the device he judged best fitted to enable his vassals to identify him; and having borne it, battered and torn, through many a hard foughten field, the same was afterwards adopted by his son, jealous of honouring an emblem his crusading father had chosen.

So strictly, at first, was the use of Coat Armour limited to the military profession, that a witness in a certain cause, in the year 1408, alleged that, although descended from noble blood, he had no armorial bearings, because neither himself nor his ancestors had ever been engaged in war. It was not until the time of Richard the Second that heraldic devices began to be displayed upon the Civil as well as the Military costume of the great.

It may safely be asserted that, no descendant of any of the innumerable warriors who fought in Palestine during the first four Crusades could produce an Original Grant of Arms to his crusading ancestor; Shields of Arms, and also their hereditary transmission, having been in use long before the establishment of the College



of Arms. Certain Officers called heralds, from an early period, undoubtedly, were retained in the Castles of the Sovereign and his greater nobles, to serve on occasions of State ; but the College of Arms, or, as it is often called “Heralds’ College,” owes its origin as a Corporation to Richard III, whose Charter to the Heralds is dated March 2nd, 1483.

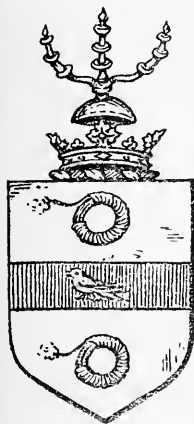
The business of the Heralds was not confined to attending Tournaments, the Proclamation of War and Peace, or other Ceremonials of State : to their keeping was entrusted the genealogies of Noble and Gentle Families, so that, through their agency, both titular honours, and territorial possessions, were safely conveyed to lawful heirs.

For the better performance of the duties devolving upon the Officers of the College of Arms, England was divided into two provinces, over each of which a King of Arms presided. The Title of the Officer who exercised jurisdiction over all heraldic affairs south of the Trent was *Clarencieux*; and that of the Officer who regulated heraldic matters northward of that river *Norroy*. Over both of these, as principal of the Establishment, was appointed *Garter* King of Arms ; an office instituted by Henry the Fifth.

In olden days it was the custom for the Heralds, upon the authority of their College and with the sanction of the Earl Marshal, to visit every County ; when, taking up their quarters in the principal towns, they summoned all the resident gentry of each district, on a certain day and hour, to appear before them to prove, by sufficient evidence, their right to bear Arms ; as also, to furnish data for the establishment of their pedigree ; which was duly registered in the Visitation Books, and sometimes attested by the signature of the representative of the family. This custom was

systematically attended to from the reign of Henry the Eighth until that of James the Second.

There are many ancient families whose Arms are not traceable to Grants, and such is the case with that of Leete.



**Arms of Leete:** Argent a fesse gules between two rolls of fuses sable fired proper; a Martlet of the field. **CREST:** On a ducal coronet an antique lamp or, fired proper:—as shewn by the Heralds' Visitations of Cambs, Hunts, and Suffolk.

The badges or cognizances on the surcoats and shields of the earlier Crusaders, for obvious reasons, were simple and distinctive in character. A plain white cross on a red ground, or *vice versâ*, a red cross on a white ground; a series of black and white, or red and white bars painted perpendicularly, or horizontally, across the shield of a knight, would enable his companions easily to identify him; and the same end could be obtained if a red fesse, or single bar, was exhibited horizontally across a white or silvered shield, as, for instance, in the **Leete Shield**, a representation of which is here annexed. In the quaint language of Heraldry the last named cognizance would be described as *Argent, a Fesse gules*.

The **Fesse** is one of the oldest charges of Heraldry; it ranks as one of the nine *Honourable Ordinaries*. Earliest of all the devices of true Heraldry, these evidently have been derived from various means the Crusading Knights adopted, structurally to strengthen their shields, for use in combat.

**The Rolls of Lighted Fuses.** Lighted fuses in the form of rolls, or coils, were a characteristic of the warfare in the Holy Land. The Turk wound round the neck of a jar or bottle containing his destructive Greek Fire a coil or fuse, which he ignited ere discharging it from his catapult.

The device of a coiled fuse alight upon the Leete Shield, taken in connection with the Knights Crusading **de Letes** of the Close Rolls, points to the family Arms as having had their origin at the period of the Crusades.

The **Ducal Coronet** anciently denoted command.

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*The following brief essay by Mr. John Corbet Anderson, on the Crusades, will be found of interest when read in connection with the records of the Crusading de Letes.*

## **The Crusades.**

In the dark ages of ignorance and superstition, to have visited the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem was deemed a very meritorious work—equivalent even to a passport to Heaven. The difficulties and dangers encountered on the long journey through unknown countries, during the lawless Middle Ages, were great. And when, after surmounting every obstacle, the pilgrims reached the Holy Land, defenceless, they were exposed to a cruel treatment from sacrilegious Turks, who brutally domineered over the afflicted Christians, and sacred places of Palestine.

After subduing Arabia, Syria, and the half of Asia, conquering devotees of the False Prophet overran the States of North Africa; when, penetrating Europe on the West, Moors settled on the fairest portions of Spain. Meanwhile, the dread green and black and yellow banner of Mahomet was steadily advancing towards the Gates of Constantinople.

The time had come for Christendom to move !

It was the ardent eloquence of Peter the Hermit of Amiens that aroused all Europe to the 'Great Debate.' Two frenzied multitudes, led by the fanatic Hermit, and *Gautier sans avoir* Walter the Pennyless, and composed of men, women and children, of all ages, professions and languages, hastened through Hungary by

way of the Danube towards the East. Despising all worldly considerations of providing for the wants of an unknown and perilous way ; a remnant only of these disorderly hosts survived to reach Asia, and there, confronted by Solyman the Sultan, they left their bones to bleach upon its sunny plains.

A.D. 1096.—At length the mail-clad Knights of Christendom with their martial trains, led by the most renowned warriors of Europe, pressed forwards on the holy pilgrimage. Godfrey of Bouillon, duke of Lorraine ; Hugh the Great, brother of Philip King of France ; Bohemond, prince of Tarentum, with his Kinsman the chivalrous Tancred ; Raymond of Toulouse ; Robert duke of Normandy, elder brother of Rufus ; Stephen Count of Blois ; and Robert Count of Flanders ; all were distinguished leaders of the first Crusade. Following the various banners of these princes and powerful barons, innumerable Knights, from head to foot clothed in mail-armour, brandished aloft their long streaming lances that glittered in the sun, or, with martial impatience grasped their huge two-handed swords. To their breasts or shoulders was affixed the sacred symbol of their warfare—type of that cross which once far otherwise the Prince of Peace in lowliness bowed under. Suspended from their necks hung their long shields. These the Western Knights had not as yet learned to blazon with the fantastic hues of heraldry, but many bore even then some plain distinctive mark by which their followers knew them. Knight, and Esquire, and Man-at-Arms, were mounted upon powerful steeds. The general aspect of the Christian host was one of sombre sublimity.

Arrived at Constantinople the Crusaders met with but an indifferent reception at the hands of the treacherous Greek Emperor Alexius.

From the Bosphorus the Crusaders had many hundred miles to march before they could reach Jerusalem,—a dreadful march! disastrously obstructed by their sieges of Nice and Antioch; but persevered in amid hunger and thirst, and in spite of a formidable Turcoman horde that hovering around, thinned their fatigued ranks.

At last the Crusaders came in sight of Jerusalem. Once a host six-hundred thousand strong, now dwindled to an army scarce numbering sixty thousand, those iron veterans, whose sunburnt visages bore many a scar, were overcome with emotion as they gazed upon the Holy City; and in floods of tenderness dismounting, the knights bare-footed, reverently drew nearer to its sacred walls.

The Crusaders prepared to assault Jerusalem. Surrounded, as it is by deep valleys, beyond which rise the mountains of Judea, Jerusalem's strong walls presented only one available surface for attack. Its Fatemite governor had anticipated, and made ready against their siege. The Crusaders rushed against the strong bulwarks in the fanatic hope that these would surrender to their assault without the necessity of engines, and scaling ladders; but, met by showers of arrows and *Greek-Fire* from the battlements, they were repulsed with heavy loss.

A month was now spent in constructing war-turrets, battering-rams, and the other necessary implements of mediæval warfare. But the blighted region around Jerusalem yielded only a scanty supply of the requisite timber; and when after enormous labour their wooden towers and catapults had been finished, no sooner were these placed in position than the infidels destroyed them by their *Greek-Fire*.

Parched with the hot blasts of Arabia, and with no trees to shelter them from a Syrian sun whose scorching rays were reflected

with tenfold intensity from the barren limestone formation around, the sufferings the half-famished Christians endured from thirst during this interval were frightful.

At length the Holy City was rescued from the Mahommedan yoke, 463 years after its conquest by the austere Omar. Then ensued a scene of carnage the horrors of which baffle description. In the portico and court of that grand mosque, reared by the magnificence of the tenth Khalif on the site of the ancient Temple of Solomon, the horses of the Western Knights are said to have waded through Infidel blood up to their knees. The inoffending yet unbelieving Jews also were burnt in their synagogue by the ruthless Crusaders.

Jerusalem captured, the first act of its conquering nobles and Knights was to elect Godfrey of Bouillon, as the most worthy, to wear the crown of the newly constituted Latin Kingdom. He accepted the office of Chief Magistrate ; but, with pious humility refused to wear a royal diadem where the Saviour of the world had been crowned with thorns.

The newly-established Kingdom, which at first consisted only of Jerusalem and Jaffa with some twenty villages of the adjacent country, eventually embraced all Palestine, besides the principalities of Antioch, Tripoli and Edessa. This territory was portioned out and occupied by the Christian warriors upon the strictest principles of the feudal system of Europe ; and the *Assizes of Jerusalem*, its legal code, defined the conditions of tenure, and the rights of lord and vassal, according to that martial polity.

The inadequate military power of the infant Christian Kingdom called into existence two memorable institutions, which sprang up

in Jerusalem soon after the first Crusade. These were the religious Orders of the Knights of the Hospital of St. John, and of the Temple of Solomon; which combined the Monastic and Military life; the austerity of the monk with the warrior's discipline. Swelled by the flower of European Chivalry, the Templars and Hospitallers were the most daring defenders of the Kingdom of Jerusalem against its Moslem foes.

There were, in all, nine great Crusades to the East, each having been prompted by some special exciting cause. A brief description of the first has just been given.

Richard, the lion-hearted King of England, was the hero of the third Crusade.

Towards the summer of 1191 King Richard arrived to share in the dangers and glories of the siege of Acre. Around the strongly fortified city the Christian army lay; exhausted by the protracted duration of the siege. Beyond, the brilliant cohorts of Saladin covered hill and valley, their tents and banners looking gaily in the sun.

Unfortunately dissensions arose between the French and English monarchs, and Philip Augustus returned to France.

At last Acre succumbed to famine; when, after repairing its fortifications, Cœur-de-Leon took the direct route to Ascalon.

The King of England's march from Acre to Ascalon, a distance of one hundred miles, performed in the presence of an enemy of overwhelming force, was a masterpiece of generalship. It has been described as "a great and perpetual battle of eleven days' duration." Amid wild defiant sounds from their cymbals and kettledrums,



the Saracenic cavalry, with scimitars gleaming through clouds of dust raised by their flying chargers, swept down on the devoted Christian army. The Crusaders like an iron rampart resisted the shock, still toiling onwards. At length the Anglo-Norman cross-bowmen were forced to take refuge behind the dense lines of the army; and the Hospitallers who formed the rear-guard, could bear it no longer. Vociferating their war-cry of "St. George to the rescue!" they charged the Infidels. The contagion and the war-cry spread, and the earth shook as, in rapid succession the iron masses of the Christian host were hurled, troop after troop, upon the bewildered enemy. In a moment innumerable Turkish saddles were emptied and horses and riders rolling in the dust; for the weight of the heavily armed Western Knights bore everything down before it. On that memorable day King Richard pursued alone his tremendous career throughout the field, and with his battle-axe clove a wide path through the heathen.

Perplexed at the irresistible progress of the Franks, Saladin gave orders for the forts far and near, including the strongholds of Joppa and Ascalon, to be dismantled, and prepared at Jerusalem to make a last stand for the Prophet.

At this critical juncture the Anglo-Norman King discovered that he must abandon an enterprise dear to his soul. By easy marches, Richard had advanced even to within sight of the Holy City. But when the General mustered his forces they were found unequal in number to the task of rigidly blockading the circumference of Jerusalem, and in the face of Saladin keep a road by which to convey provisions to his camp from the distant coast. The Warrior-King suffered himself to be led to an eminence from whence he could gaze upon the Holy City; but the sight and

its memories were too much for him, and raising his battered shield, the Lion-hearted with emotion turned, and shut Jerusalem for ever from his sight.

There are no lists extant recording the names of those English Knights who fought in the Crusades. Judging from the dates of the Close and Patent Rolls, in which the **de Letes** are mentioned, it is probable that they followed King Richard to the Holy Land. King John is particular in describing **Peter de Lete and his brothers as Knights**; but it is to Henry III that we are indebted for the more detailed information that they were **Crusaders**. In 1217, the first year of the reign of Henry III, the **Knight-Crusading de Letes** appear to have joined another expedition for the relief of the Christians of Palestine: it was the period of the sixth Crusade.

In 1240 the Earl of Cornwall, an Anglo-Norman prince, led the seventh expedition to the East.

Prince Edward, who afterwards became King Edward the First, was the hero of the last Crusade. Chivalrously advancing against the infidels of Syria; after a severe conflict with them, and nearly losing his life by the poisoned dagger of an assassin, the English prince concluded an advantageous peace for the Christians of Palestine.

Yet, but a short time elapsed, ere the persevering Mahommedan adversary, keenly alive to the inability of Europe to maintain the drain of blood, and money, that for two centuries had exhausted her, clutched one after another the Christian strongholds in the East, and held them fast. Amid a blaze of chivalric valour, Acre, the last stay of the Latin Kingdom fell, and then, "a mournful and

solitary silence prevailed along the coast which had so long resounded with the world's debate."

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### GREEK FIRE.

Anna Comnena informs us that the composition known as Greek fire was a mixture of pitch and various vegetable gums mingled with sulphur, and ground together. Procopius, in his book of the *War of the Goths*, says it was composed of naphtha, sulphur and bitumen. The stench thereof was detestable ; its flames could only be extinguished by vinegar and sand. Greek fire was so called because its invention was attributed to the Greeks, who, by means of fire-ships, floated it amidst the ships of their enemies, and set them on fire. They blew it also through copper tubes on to their opponents, damaging them terribly.

As an agent in warfare, Greek fire was something new to the Western Knights, who during the earlier Crusades suffered fearfully from the use which the Moslems made of this fore-runner of gunpowder. They filled jars and vessels of glass, as well as tuns or barrels, with the deadly composition ; when, having coiled round the neck of the jar a lighted time fuse, or attached it to the loaded barrel, by means of huge catapults and cross-bows, wound by windlass up to a great power, the destructive missile was hurled against the wooden towers of the Christians, and smashed ; whereupon, the released Greek fire, ignited by the fuse, quickly consumed the timber structures of the Crusaders.

In Geoffrey de Vinsauf's Itinerary of Richard the First in the Holy Land, a vivid description is given of how the Turks, by

means of their Greek fire, destroyed the machines and engines made by the Crusaders for scaling or breaking down the walls of Acre. But the most detailed account of the effects of the Greek fire is contained in Joinville's Memoirs of St. Louis, the crusading King of France. "This Greek fire in appearance" he remarks "was like a large tun, and its tail was of the length of a long spear; the noise which it made was like to thunder; and it seemed a great dragon of fire flying through the air, giving so great a light with its flame, that we saw in our Camp as clearly as in broad day. Thrice this night did they throw the fire from *la perriere*, and four times from cross-bows. . . . One of the discharges from the Turks fell beside a *chas-chatiel*, guarded by the men of the Lord Courtenay, struck the bank of the river in front, and ran on the ground toward them burning with flame. One of the Knights of the guard instantly came to me crying out—'Help us, my lord, or, we are burnt; for there is a long train of Greek fire, which the Saracens have discharged, that is running straight for our castle.' We immediately hastened thither and good need was there. . . . Once these Turkish traitors advanced their *perriere* in the day-time, when the Count d'Anjou had the guard, and had brought together all their machines, from which they threw Greek fire on our dams, over the river, opposite to our tandies and defences, which completely prevented any of the workmen from shewing themselves; and our two *chas-chateils* were in a moment destroyed and burnt." The French monarch caused the destroyed *chas-chateils* to be replaced by two larger and better ones, which the Saracens observing, advanced their catapult directly opposite to them, and burnt these down also with their Greek fire.

Such is the description handed down to us by an eye-witness of the Greek fire.

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## DESCENT OF THE FAMILY ARMS.

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The reader will notice that on the accompanying pedigree of John Lete or Leete of Eversden, copied from the Record of the Visitation of Cambridgeshire in 1619, preserved at Heralds' College, is represented a Shield of Arms bearing the device of a lighted fuse coiled.

In the chapter on the Military Origin of Heraldry, pp. 37-38, we have directed attention to this remarkable device, thus:—  
 “Lighted fuses in the form of Rolls or Coils were a characteristic of the warfare in the Holy Land. The Turk wound round the neck of a jar or bottle containing his destructive Greek Fire a coil or fuse, which he ignited ere discharging it from his catapult.

The device of a coiled fuse alight upon the Leete Shield, taken in connection with the Knights-Crusading de Letes of the Close Rolls, points to the Family Arms as having had their origin at the period of the Crusades.”

In the same chapter it has been explained that those Knights who fought in the earlier Crusades had no *Grants of Arms*, Heraldry as a science being then unknown. The Christian warrior himself adorned his Coat and Shield with the device he judged best fitted to enable his followers to recognise him; and the same, having been borne by him through many a hard fought field, was eventually handed down by his descendants, proud to adopt the commemorative emblem.

In this connection it will be necessary to bear in mind the following facts:—

A.D. 1209. In the 10th year of the reign of King John, Gerard, son of Lete or Letie, was plaintiff in four actions-at-law, tried at Cambridge, relating to lands situate at Morden, Cambs.

A.D. 1213–1230. During the reigns of King John and Henry the Third, four brothers, Peter, Nicholas, Radmund, and Walter, whose surname, according to the uncertain orthography of that early period, is variously spelt Delete, de Letes, de Lettes, and de Lettres, are described in Close Rolls, Patent Rolls, and other records as Knights-Crusaders.

A.D. 1273. Roger de Leyt, mentioned in connection with Lynton Parva, Cambs. (p. 10).

A.D. 1278. Radmund de Litte, Cruce Roys (Royston) Cambs. (p. 10). He may have been a son or grandson of the Knight Radmund de Letes, one of the brothers named by King John.

A.D. 1303. Richard le Lyte held land in Toft and Comberton, Cambs. (p. 69).

A.D. 1326–7. Robert son of Lete of Toft, assessed to the Cambridgeshire Subsidy (p. 69).

It will be noticed that the Norman *particule nobiliaire* DE, indicative of noble rank, was added to the name of Lete at the time of the Crusades; and that in its varying forms of *de*, *du*, or *le*, the addition continued to give a distinguishing character to the Family Name.

In another coeval Record of the Visitation of Cambridgeshire in 1619, preserved in the British Museum, which exhibits the same curious device of the lighted fuse, John of Eversden, William his son, and Gyles his grandson, are severally described as *Leete* alias *Lite* (see p. 5). This proves that in olden times the name was spelt either with an *i* for its central letter, or an *e*; as explained in our first chapter, wherein also appear other divergencies in the orthography of the Family Name, such as the above *de Litte*, *de Leyt*, *le Lyte*, and *le Leyt*.

John Lete of Eversden, whose right to the Arms the Heralds admitted, was assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire in 1522.

Gyles Leete, who appeared before the Heralds in 1619, and was recognised by them as the rightful possessor of the same Arms, was the grandson of John of Eversden. By reference to page 27 it will be seen that, in 1594, this Gyles sued in the Court of Requests for the recovery of the Title Deeds of his Family estates in the adjoining parishes of Kingston, Eversden, and Toft, in Cambridgeshire.

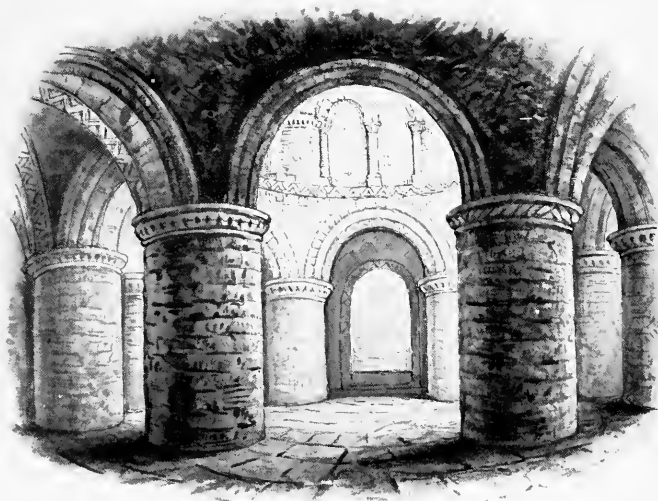
It would appear, therefore, that the home of the Knights Crusaders from whom the Arms descended was at Eversden itself, or in the immediate vicinity of that place.

The Arms of the Eversden and Oakington Leetes are identical. *For fuller information see pp. 126-127.*

CRUSADING INFLUENCES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Considerable interest attaches to the circumstance that at the period when Crusading zeal reached its height, and the Hospitallers and Templars were in the plenitude of their power, members of the







CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE,  
or Round Church, erected by the Knights Templars at  
CAMBRIDGE.

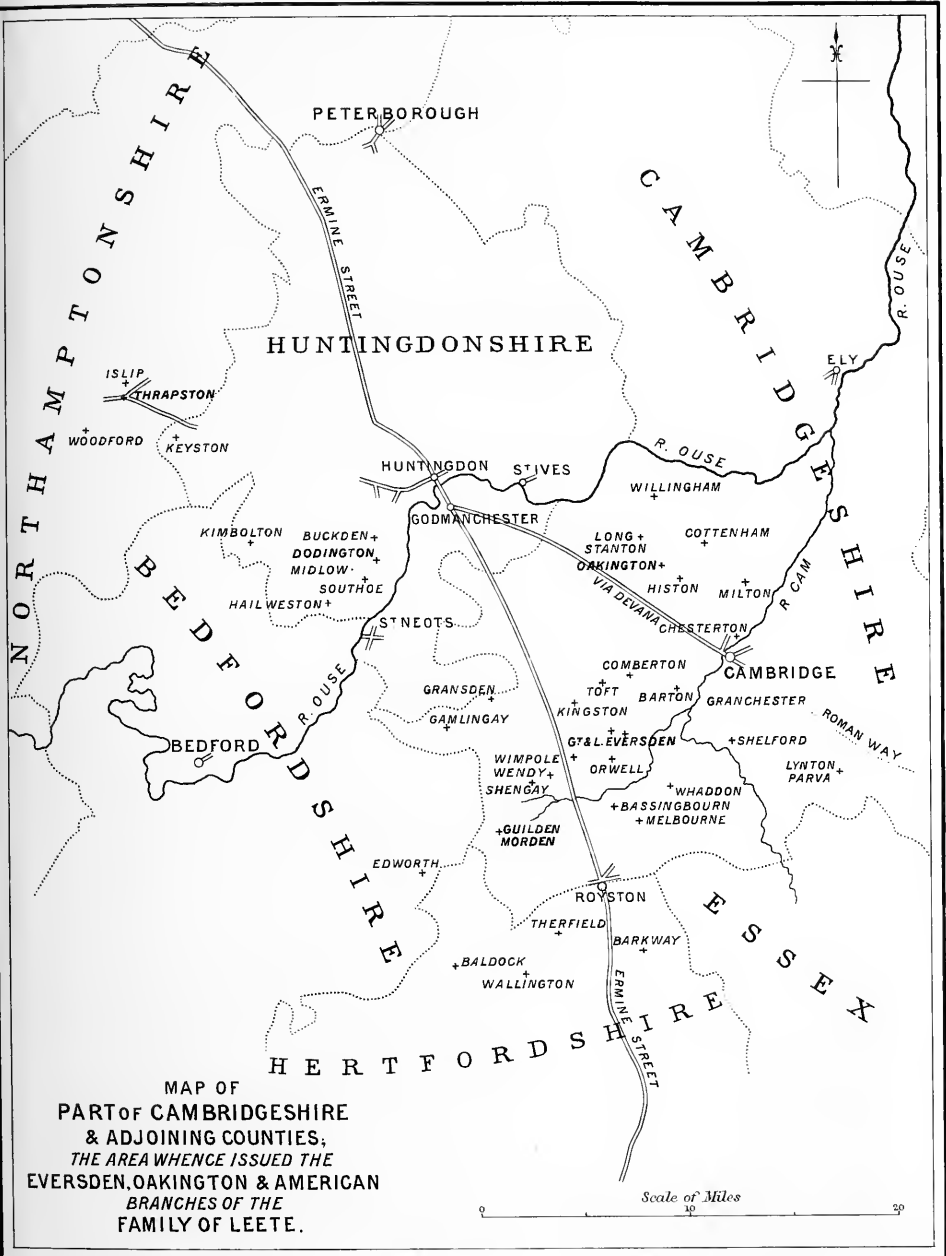
Leete family, as records show, were living in the immediate neighbourhood of noted centres of Crusading influence.

A Manuscript bearing date 1338, in the Library at Malta, states that the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem were lords of various Bailiwicks or Manors in Cambridgeshire. Of these "Shenegeye," Shingay or Shengay, with its members "Wendeye" or Wendy, "Arnynton" or Arrington, and "Cranden" or Gransden, was an important commandry. Shingay was given to the Order of Knights Hospitallers by Sibilla de Raynes, daughter of Roger de Montgomery, A.D. 1140. It is about three miles distant from Morden, Cambs.; the place where those lands were situate, the ownership of which was disputed by Gerard Lete during the reign of King John. Shingay, Wendy, Eversden, Gransden, and Arrington, are all neighbouring parishes.

Nor should it be forgotten that, in the heart of that territorial district where from remote times members of the Leete Family have dwelt, in the University town of Cambridge itself, still stands in good condition, a fabric built early in the age of the Crusades, in honour and memory of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem. Like the Temple Church at London, the Round Church at Cambridge appears, from the similarity of the design, to have been erected by the Templars after the model of its prototype at Jerusalem. The antiquity of the Round Church at Cambridge is attested by a Writ of the 7th year of the reign of Henry the Third (1223), *pro contributione taxanda in Villa Cantebr*, in which mention is made of *Domus Templi* House of the Temple.

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THE FAMILY OF LEETE,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

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EVERSDEN & GUILDEN MORDEN, CAMBS.,  
ROYSTON, HERTS.,  
AND OTHER PLACES.

## THE EVERS DEN BRANCH.

The Eversden branch of the family, embraces the names of the known descendants of John Leete, of Eversden, Cambs., whose name stands at the head of the family pedigree, recorded in the *Visitation* of Cambridgeshire of the year 1619. From this John of Eversden also descended the Leetes of Suffolk, whose pedigree is recorded in the *Visitation* of Suffolk in 1612.

Ancient records prove that the family of Leete has been connected for upwards of six centuries with Eversden, Kingston and Toft, in Cambridgeshire. In 1303 Richard le Lyte held in Toft part of a Knight's fee of the Bishop of Ely. In 1326, Robert, son of Lete of Toft, was assessed to a Subsidy. John Lete was assessed to Subsidies—of Kingston in 1522, and Little and Great Eversden in 1540, and 1542. He was buried at Eversden in 1551. His sons, Thomas and Robert Leete, were assessed to Subsidies for Little and Great Eversden in 1558, and 1566. Gyles Leete, son of William Leete, and grandson of the above-named John Leete, in 1595 sued in the Court of Requests for the recovery of the Title Deeds of his father's estates in Kingston, Eversden, and Toft. It was this Gyles Leete who appeared before the Heralds at their *Visitation* to Cambs. in 1619: he was buried at Kingston in 1626. His widow, Margaret, who died in 1640, mentions in her Will certain property in the Hall of her House at Kingston.

We now direct the attention of the reader to various extracts from Public Documents relating to members of the Eversden Branch of the family. Our Collection embraces Leete Pedigrees, as recorded in the Visitations of the Heralds; entries found in Parish Registers and Bishops' Transcripts; Marriage Licences; Copies of Wills and Administrations; and extracts from other sources of evidence.

FROM THE

JOHN L

Wm.

Ellin, Widow of  
Wm. Midleton, of  
Hardwicke.

Anne, ux  
Thomas Francis.

Marie, ux John Roge  
Doctor of the Ci  
Lawe.

Willm. Leete, son a  
heire.



## THE EVERS DEN BRANCH.

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# LEETE OF EVERSDEEN, FROM THE VISITATION OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE, 1619.

Recorded at Heralds' College, London.



JOHN LEETE, of Eversden,  
in com. Cant. = Ellin, dau. of Burgaine.

Wm. Leete, of Eversden,  
in com. Cant. = Flower, dau. of Browne,  
in com. Yorke.

Ellin, Widow of  
Wm. Middleton, of  
Hardwicke.

Anne, ux  
Thomas Francis.

Marie, ux John Rogers,  
Doctor of the Civill  
Lawe.

Giles Leete, of Kingston,  
in com. Cant., living  
1619.

Margt. dau. of John  
Bacon, of Hassett, in  
Suff.

Marie, ux Arthur  
Sedden, in Lanc.

Luce, ux. Tho. Revill,  
of Derbish.

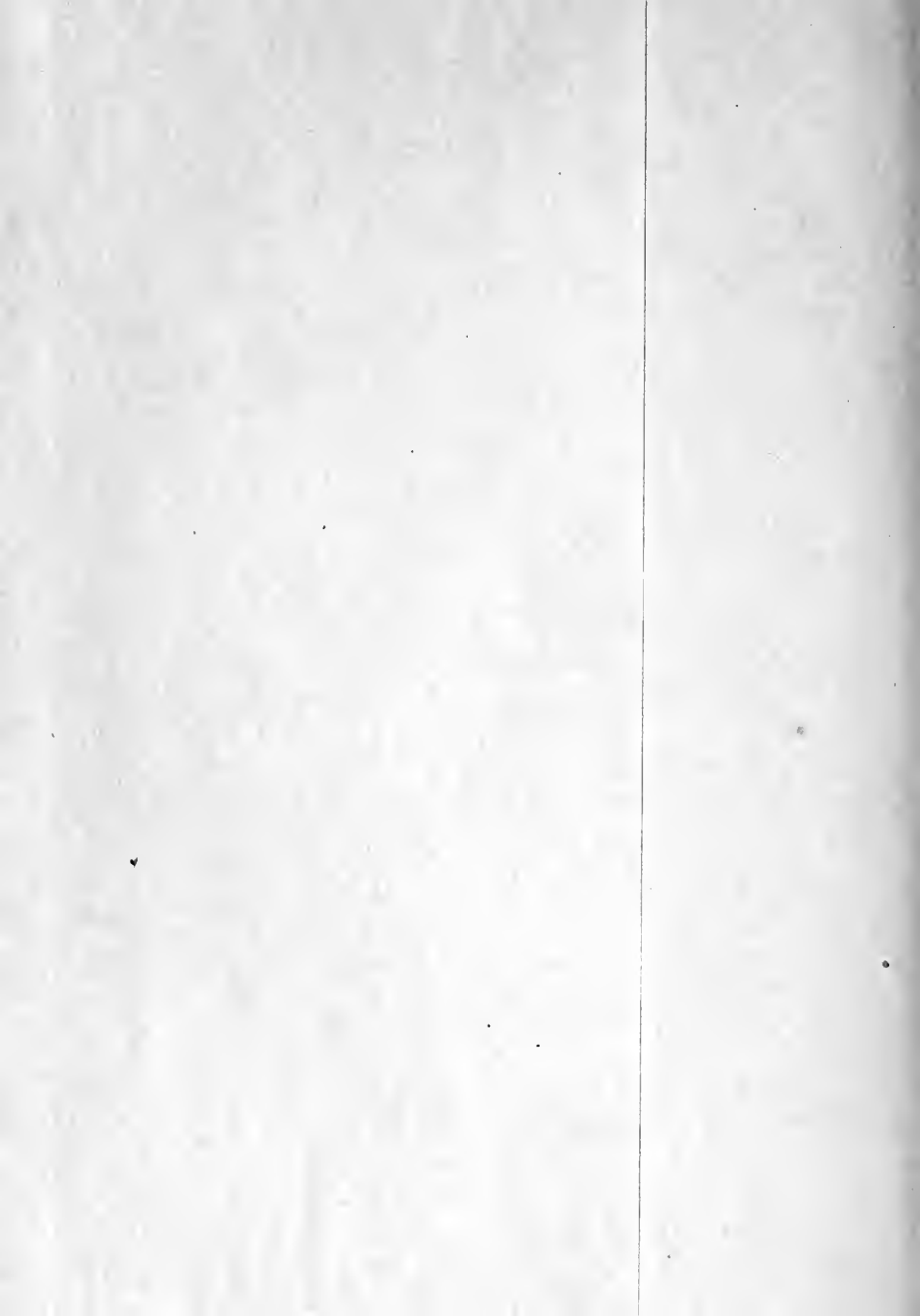
Willm. Leete, son and  
heire.

Dorithie 1<sup>st</sup> da.

Anne, ux Vincent  
Gorman, of Kent.

We do hereby certify that the above Pedigree and Arms are faithfully extracted from the Visitation Book of the County of Cambridge, A<sup>o</sup> 1619, now remaining in the College of Arms, London, and examined therewith this 26th day of February, 1864, by us.

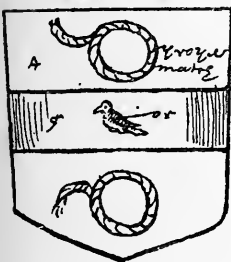
THOS. WM. KING, *York Herald.*  
G. E. ADAMS, *Rouge Dragon.*



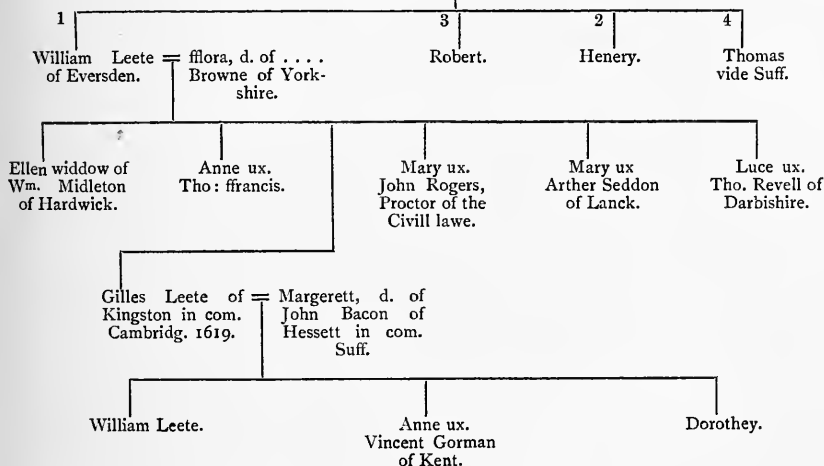


From HARLEIAN MS., 1534, fol. 83 b, in the British Museum ; the title of which runs thus:—

"The Visitation of (the County of) Cambridge, made  
"in anno (1575 by Robert Cooke Clarenceulz),  
"continued and enlarged with the Visitation of  
"the same County made by Henery St. George,  
"Richmond Herald, Marshall and Deputy to  
"William Camden, Clarenceulz, in Anno 1619," etc.\*



JOHN LEETE of = Ellen d. of . . .  
Eversden in com. Burgoyne.  
Cambridg.



\* The reader will learn from the above that, the descent from John Leete of Eversden was recorded by the Heralds in their Visitation of Cambs. in 1575; and again in 1619.

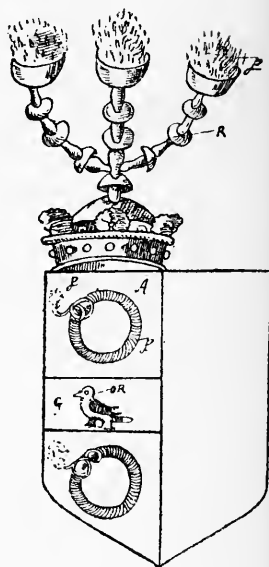
JOHN LETE OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS, SUFFOLK,  
GRANDSON OF JOHN LETE, OR LEETE, OF EVERS DEN, CAMBS.

COPY OF VISITATION, SUFFOLK,

1612.

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JOHN LETE of Eversden in y<sup>e</sup> County of  
Cambridg. married Ellen y<sup>e</sup> daught<sup>r</sup> of  
and had issue Willm sonē & heire Robert  
& Thomas.



Thomas y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> sonē of John married Dorathe y<sup>e</sup> daught<sup>r</sup> of Richard Warde of  
Barton in y<sup>e</sup> County of Cambridg. being of the inēr Temple and had issue John  
sonē and heire, Elizabeth married to Thomas Winde of Warwickshire.

John Lete of Berry St. Edmond in Suff. sonē & heire of Thomas esq.  
married Mary daught<sup>r</sup> of Willm Bolnest of Bassingborne in y<sup>e</sup> County of  
Cambridg. and as yet hath no issue.

I certify this to be a true extract from the Record  
C. 15, now remaining in the Heralds'  
College, London, 18<sup>th</sup> Oct., 1880.

STEPHEN TUCKER,  
Somerset  
H.

## EVERSDEN, CAMBS.

There are two Parishes of this name, one called Great Eversden, and the other Little Eversden. They adjoin each other, and are situate about five miles, in a south-westerly direction, from the University Town of Cambridge.

Eversden is twice mentioned in Domesday Book: in one of the entries it is thus described.

## GRENTERRSCIRE.

*In Stow Hund.*

In Auersdone ten<sup>1</sup> Roht' 7 II. Angli de com. I. hid. Tra ē. II. car. 7 ibi Su<sup>1</sup> cū. II. uithis 7 III. bord 7 I. cot. p<sup>1</sup>atū. II. car. 7 nem<sup>2</sup> ad Sepes. Val. xxv. so<sup>1</sup>. Qdo recep̃: x. so<sup>1</sup>. T.R.E: xx. so<sup>1</sup>. Hanc trā tenuer̃. II. so<sup>1</sup>ci. hoes Eddeuæ. 7 poteu<sup>1</sup> dare 7 uendere.

*Translation.*

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

*In Stow Hundred.*

In Eversden Robert (the Norman) and two Englishmen hold of the Earl (Alan the Red) one hide. The land is (sufficient to employ) two oxteams, and here they are, with two villanes and three bordars and one cottager; meadow for two team of oxen; and wood for the hedges. It is (now, at the date of the Survey), worth twenty-five shillings (per annum); when received (at the Conquest), ten shillings; in the time of King Edward (the Confessor) twenty shillings. This land two socmen, vassals of Edith (the Queen, formerly) held; and they could give or sell it.

*Domesday Vol. I. fol. 194, b.*

By gift of William the Conqueror Hugo de Berners and Wido de Rainbuedcurt became lords of the Manor of Great Eversden. At an early period it passed to the Andevilles, and afterwards successively to the families of Perrers, and Castleacre. In 1442, John, Lord Tiptoft, died seised of the Manor; and his son the

Earl of Worcester in 1470. In 1491 the Earl's daughter Joan, Lady Ingoldesthorp, gave it to the Master and Fellows of Queens' College, Cambridge, in whose possession it remains.

The Rectory or Parsonage Manor, which formerly belonged to the Monastery of St. Albans, after the dissolution of that establishment, was granted to the family of Warner, and so passed into lay hands; but the Crown retained the right of presentation to the Vicarage.

The Manor of Little Eversden having passed with Great Eversden since the reign of Henry IV, is also vested in the Master and Fellows of Queens' College, who are patrons of the Rectory. Practically, Eversden Magna and Parva constitute one Ecclesiastical Living; the Registers of both parishes are in the custody of the same Incumbent.

Eversden is a retired spot: a pastoral beauty reigns throughout the neighbourhood. The ancient Church of Little Eversden appears, amid haystacks and cottages, surrounded by all the charms of English farm-house life. It belongs mainly to that era of English gothic architecture technically known as the Decorated period. There is a square tower at the west end; and, an interesting open timber north porch. A short pathway across green meadows leads to Great Eversden. Here, the weather-beaten village Church stands out boldly from its diminutive "God's Acre," just at the turn of the road. Its walls are composed of rounded flints, rudely plastered over. The tower, and some of its buttresses, exhibit work of the "Decorated" era; the windows are chiefly "Perpendicular" work.

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John Lete or Leete of Eversden, whose name stands at the head of the *Visitation* of Cambs., in 1619, lived throughout the reign of Henry the Eighth, 1509-1547. He married Ellen Burgoyne. He was assessed to the Subsidy for Kingston, Cambs., in 1522-23, and also to that for Little Eversden, 1540-41, and Great Eversden, 1542-43. In Newcourt's History of St. Albans occurs the following extract, from an "Account of the lands & possessions of the Monastery of St. Albans in the County of Herts, 1544. *Rectory of Eversden Magna—John Lete, Farmer, 11: 6: 8.*" Seven years later property was left to him by his son Edmond Leete, whose Will was proved in the Archdeacon's Court of Ely on the 22nd of Aug., 1551. The burial of John is recorded in the Parish Register for Little Eversden as follows:—"A.D. 1551. Mr. Jhon Let of litle Euersdō was buried 25th of December."

Ellen, or Helen, the wife of John Lete of Eversden, is described as 'Gentlewoman' in the record of the baptism of 'Ales (Alice) Sutton,' at the Parish Church of Toft, on the 10th of October, 1539. As A.D. 1538 was the date of the legal Institution of Parish Registers in this country, it follows that, the entry referred to is one of the oldest in the Parish Registers of England. As a widow, Helen Lete survived her husband thirteen years. She died in 1564, and, on the 2nd of May in that year, the Administration of her property was granted to Thomas, her son; who, as we learn from the *Visitation* of Suffolk in 1612, was of the Inner Temple.

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### CAMBRIDGESHIRE SUBSIDIES.

The names of the following members of the Leete family at Eversden are recorded as having been assessed to the Subsidy



for Cambridgeshire, during the reigns, and at the dates respectively mentioned :—

A.D. 1540-41 (32 Hen. VIII)—Eversden Pva .	. John Lete.	
A.D. 1542-43 (34-35 Hen. VIII)—Eversden Mag. .	. John Lete.	
A.D. 1558-9 (1 Elizabeth)—Eversden Mag. et Pva {	. Thomas Lete, Gent. in lands	£3 6s. 8d.
	. Robert Lete . . . in goods	£10.
A.D. 1566-7 (8 Elizabeth)—Eversden Mag. et Pva {	. Robert Leete . . . in lands	£7.
	. Thomas Leete . . . in lands	£3 6s. 8d.
A.D. 1571-2 (13 Elizabeth)—Eversden . . .	. Robert Leete, Gent. in goods	£10.

*Hearth Tax, 16 Charles II.*

<i>Eversden.</i>	Hearths.
William Leete . . . . .	2
John Leete . . . . .	1
Robert Leete . . . . .	3
Robert Leete (new entry). . . . .	1



GREAT EVERSDEM CHURCH.



LITTLE EVERSDEM CHURCH.



**Baptisms, Marriages, Burials.**

The origin of the registration of births, deaths and marriages, and the establishment of regular parish registers are to be traced to the year 1538, about which time Thomas Lord Cromwell being appointed the King's Vicegerent for Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, in the exercise of his functions he issued, in the 30th year of King Henry VIII, 1538-9, certain injunctions to the clergy ; and among others, one enjoining each of them to keep a book or books, in which they should enter all births, deaths and marriages within their respective parishes. In the year 1547, the first of Edward VI, visitors were directed to enforce this, among other matters, upon the clergy. During a portion of the reign of Elizabeth, especially in the 1st, 7th and 39th years of her reign, the clergy were required to make protestation that they would keep their register books in a proper manner. Several of the canons also, which date their authority from James I, 1603, prescribe with great minuteness the mode in which entries are to be made in the registers ; and they also order an attested copy of the same to be forwarded annually to the bishop of the diocese or his chancellor.

The frequent loss of parish registers may occasionally be supplied by the transcripts preserved in the registry of the diocese. These transcripts were first ordered to be transmitted to the bishop in the year 1597 ; and subsequent ordinances have enjoined their punctual transmission. But in some dioceses no attention has been paid to the subject, and in no one diocese are the transcripts perfect. The canon of 1597 did not require a transcript of the antecedent registers for the bishop ; but by the canon of 1603, the transcripts made in pursuance thereof, have at the present day, the same authority with respect to evidence as an original document.—*Hist. of Parish Registers, etc., by J. S. Burn.*

EXTRACTS  
RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF LEETE  
from the Parish Registers of Great and Little Eversden,  
Cambridgeshire,

and the corresponding Bishops' Transcripts: A.D. 1551—1812.

*Those from the Bishops' Transcripts are marked by an asterisk.*

**Baptisms.**

A.D.

1573. Symeō Leet sō of Rob. Leet : June 23.  
1574. Judeth Leet daugh. of Rob. Leet : July 11.  
1576. Debora Leet daugh. of Robert Leet : July 22.  
1579. Ruth Leet daugh. of Robert Leet : May 8.  
1581. Mordocheas Leet sō of Robert Leet : July 23.  
1583. Susaṇa Leet daugh of Robert Leet : Nov<sup>r</sup> 10.  
1585. Phabe Leet daugh of Rob. Leet : Dec<sup>r</sup> 20.  
\*1603. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 18.  
\*1605. John, son of Symond Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 15.  
\*1606. "Simeon Lete," signed as Churchwarden.

*September 1606*

*Simeon Lete*

- \*1607. William, son of Symon Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 27.  
\*1610. Israel, son of Simeon Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 11.  
\*1612. Anne, dau. of Simeon Leete : Oct<sup>r</sup> 11.  
\*1614. Robert, son of Simeon Leete : March 13.  
\*1617. Edmund, son of Simeon Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 16.  
\*1618. Giles, son of Simeon Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 7.

- \*1620. Anne, dau. of Symon Leete : March 5.  
 \*1635. "William Leete," signed as Churchwarden.

March: 25: 1635

William Leete

- \*1636. William, son of William & Elizabeth Leete : June 21.  
 \*1639. Robert and John, sons of William and Elizabeth Leete : March 27.  
 170 $\frac{3}{4}$ . John, the sonn of Simeon and Eliz : Leet : Feb. 13.  
 1705. Rebeckkah daughter of Robert Leete & Ann his wife, Borne May y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> and  
 baptizd : May y<sup>e</sup> 27.  
 1705. Ann y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Simeon Leete & Elizabeth his wife, borne November  
 y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> & baptized November y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup>.  
 1708. John Leet son of Simeon Leete and Elizabeth his wife, Borne Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>d</sup>.  
 1710. Thomas Leete y<sup>e</sup> son of Sim : Leete : and Elizabeth his wife, Borne Nov. 27.  
 \*17 $\frac{11}{12}$ . "Simeon Leete," signed as Churchwarden.

April y 14<sup>th</sup> 1711

Simeon Leete. } Churchwarden

1712. Samuell Leet y<sup>e</sup> son of Simeon Leet & Elizabeth Leet his wife, Borne  
 August y<sup>e</sup> 24.  
 1714. Thomas Leet y<sup>e</sup> son of Simeon Leet. Borne June y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> and Baptized  
 July y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>.  
 17 $\frac{24}{25}$ . Robert Leet y<sup>e</sup> son of Robert and Honour his wife : Jan : y<sup>e</sup> : 24.  
 17 $\frac{24}{25}$ . "Robert Leete" signed as Churchwarden.

- 17 $\frac{2}{3}$  $\frac{4}{5}$ . Robert, y<sup>e</sup> son of Rob<sup>t</sup> Leet and Mary his wife : Oct. 10.  
 17 $\frac{2}{3}$  $\frac{4}{5}$ . Mary y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Charles Leet and Mary his wife : March 13.  
 17 $\frac{2}{3}$  $\frac{6}{8}$ . Elizabeth Leet Daughter of Robert and Honour Leet : Feb 19.  
 17 $\frac{2}{3}$  $\frac{7}{8}$ . Simeon y<sup>e</sup> son of Robert Leete and Mary his wif was borne y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> of Feb.  
 and baptiz'd y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> of March.  
 1728. Anne Daughter of Charles Leete & Mary his wife was born ye 7<sup>th</sup> December  
 and baptiz'd y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 1730. Mary Daughter of Robert & Mary Leete was born the 26<sup>th</sup> Day of August  
 & baptiz'd the 20<sup>th</sup> Day of Sept<sup>br</sup> 1730.  
 1732. Robert y<sup>e</sup> son of Robert Leet & Mary his wife : June 25.  
 1733. Simeon Leete, son of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Honour Leete was born April y<sup>e</sup> 2 and bap-  
 tized May y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>.  
 1734. John y<sup>e</sup> son of John Leet & Elizabeth his wife : Dec. 25.  
 1735. Thomas Leete son of Robert and Honour Leete : March 21.  
 1735. Ellen y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Duckett Leet & Ellen his wife : May 29.  
 1735. Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Robert Leet & Mary his wife : July 20.  
 17 $\frac{3}{8}$  $\frac{5}{6}$ . Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of John Leet & Eliz : his wife : Jan 28.  
 1736. Ann y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Robert Leet & Mary his wife : Jan. 20.  
 "Robert Leete" signed as Churchwarden.  
 1741. Frances y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Robert Leet & Mary his wife : May 21.  
 1741. Rebecca y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of Duckett Leet & Ellen his wife : May 21.  
 1742. Charles, the son of Duckett Leete & Ellen his wife : June 10.  
 1742. Flower Leete, D. of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Honour Leete, born Sep<sup>r</sup> 28. 1729, & baptized  
 Feb. 27.  
 1744. Eliz. D. of William & Rose Leete was baptized May 17.  
 1745. Mary D. of William & Rose Leete : Jan. 19.  
 \*1745. William, son of Duckett & Ellen Leete : Sept. 9.  
 \*1747. William, son of William & Rose Leete : June 14.  
 \*1749. Joseph, son of Duckett & Ellen Leete : Aug. 27.  
 1751. Mary D. of Simeon & Mary Leete : Dec<sup>r</sup> 19.  
 1750 & 1751. "Simeon Leete" signed as Churchwarden.

*Simeon Leete Churchwarden*  
 1751

- \*1752. Joseph, son of Duckett & Ellen Leete : Sept. 15.
- \*1754. William, son of William & Mary Leete : June 16.
- \*1756. John, son of William & Mary Leete : Feb. 15.  
1756. "Robert Leete," signed as Churchwarden, last time.
- \*1764. Robert, son of Robert & Lydia Leete : Jan. 29.
- \*1764. "Robert Leete," signed as Churchwarden.

1760.

Rob<sup>t</sup> Leete }

1766

Rob<sup>t</sup> Leete Churchwarden

- \*1766. Stephen, son of Robert & Lydia Leete : Feb. 2.
- \*1767. Mary, dau. of Robert & Lydia Leete : May 31.
- \*1769. Lydia, dau. of Robert & Lydia Leete : Aug. 6.
- \*1769. Simeon Leete, son of Simeon Leete & Mary Watts : Nov. 5.
- \*1771. Samuel, son of Robert & Lydia Leete : Mar. 17.
- \*1773. Sarah, dau. of Robert & Lydia Leete : Dec. 5.
- \*1777. Elizabeth, dau. of Robert & Lydia Leete : Apr. 20.
- \*1777. Robert Leete ceased to be Churchwarden.
- 1778. Elizabeth, Daughter of Simon & Mary Leet : Jan. 4.
- \*1778. Lydia, dau. of Robert & Lydia Leete : Nov. 20.
- 1780. Joseph & Robert, sons of Simeon & Mary Leete : July 16.



1783. Joseph, son of Simeon & Mary Leete : July 13.  
 1785. Mary & Sarah, daus. of Simeon & Mary Leete : Apr. 24.

### Marriages.

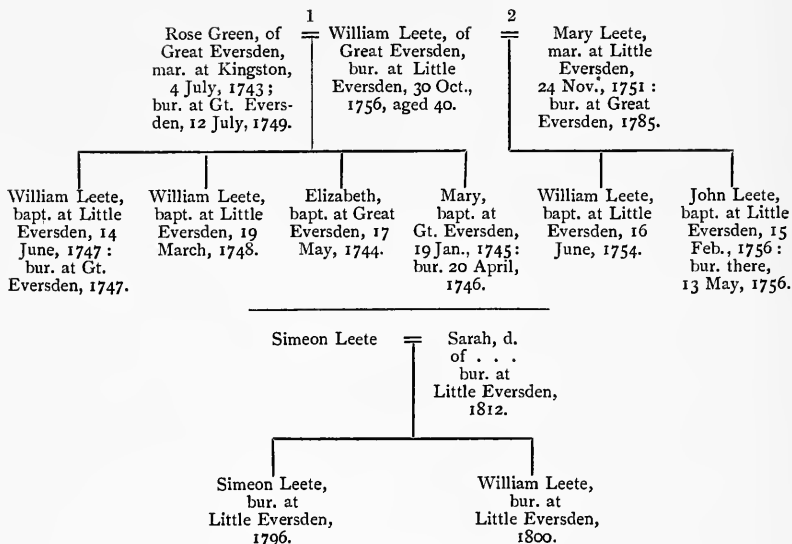
1573. Mr Robert Leet & Alise Grūdy were married sixt. of Aprill.  
 1601. Willia— & Judith Leete were married y<sup>e</sup> 2 Day of August.  
 \*1635. William Leete and Elizabeth Baron : Jan. 27.  
 1694. Simeon Leete of Little Eversden & Eliz : Galer of Great Eversden : Sept. 16.  
 1721. Robert Leet of Little Eversden & Honour Hawks of Gt. Eversden : Oct. 2.  
 \*1742. Samuel Leete of Little Eversden & Mary Bonde of Gt. Eversden : Nov. 14.  
 \*1751. William Leete, Widower, & Mary Leete, Spinster : Nov. 24.  
 \*1752. James Rogers, of Wimpole, & Elizabeth Leete of Gt. Eversden : Feb. 11.  
 \*1758. John Butler & Anne Leete : June 24.

A.D.

### Burials.

1551. Mr Jhon Let of litle Euersdō was buried 25th of December.  
*(This is the John Leete whose name stands at the top of the Family Pedigree in the Visitation to Cambs. in 1619.)*  
 \*1616. Anne, dau. of Simeon Leete : May 21.  
 \*1617-8. Edmund, son of Simeon Leete : Jan. 4.  
 \*1667. Elizabeth Leete ; Feb. 24.  
 1704. John Leete died Nov. 18 & Anne Leete Nov. 20 : the children of Simeon Leete & Elizabeth his wife, & were Buried Nov. y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>.  
 1709. Ann Leet : August y<sup>e</sup> 22.  
 170<sup>9</sup>/<sub>10</sub>. Robert Leete : Feb : y<sup>e</sup> 17.  
 1713. Robert Leet senior : Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>.  
 1713. Thomas Leet : Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup>.  
 1715. Thomas Leet : Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup>.  
 1716-7. Judeth Leet wid : Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>.  
 1723-4. Simeon Leet was Buried March y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> : in Woollen according to y<sup>e</sup> Act of Parliament.  
 1725. Robert, son of Robert Leet & Mary his wife : Feb. 15.  
 1728-9. Charles Leete : Feb. 4.  
 1731-2. Elizabeth Leet widow : March 15.  
 1731-2. "Rob' Leete" signed as Churchwarden.

1741. Duckett y<sup>e</sup> son of Duckett & Ellen his wife : 6 Apr.  
1741. "Rob<sup>t</sup> Leete" signed as Churchwarden.  
1741-2. Ann Leete, widow : Jan. 20.  
1746. Mary, dau. of William & Rose Leete : Apr. 20.  
1746. Elizabeth Leete : June 22.  
1747. William, son of William & Rose Leete.  
1748. Mary Leete : Sept. 2.  
1749. Rose, wife of William Leete, June 12.  
1749. Ellen Leete : Oct. 12.  
1752. John Leete : March 4.  
1752. Samuel Leete : March 21.  
1756. William Leete : Oct. 30. Aged 40.  
1757. Mary Leete : June 6. Aged 56.  
1758. Rebecca Leete : Nov. 30. Aged 17.  
1760. Frances Leete : Oct. 2. Aged 20.  
1762. Robert Leete : Dec. 16. Aged 66.  
1762. Mary Leete : widow. Dec. 20.  
1763. Thomas Leete : June 10. Aged 19.  
1766. Robert Leete : Oct. 6.  
1774. Honour, dau. of Simeon & Mary Leete : Nov. 20.  
1780. Joseph Leete : Sept. 12.  
1780. Robert Leete : Sept. 26.  
1781. Joseph Leete, aged 29 : Aug. 12.  
1782. Lydia Leete, aged 48 : Nov. 3.  
1783. Joseph Leete.  
1785. Sarah Leete.  
1785. Mary Leete.  
1789. Robert Leete, aged 57.  
1793. Duckett Leete, aged 94.  
1796. Simeon, son of Simeon & Sarah Leete.  
1800. William, son of Simeon & Sarah Leete.  
1812. Sarah, wife of Simeon Leete.
-



A.D. 1722. In a copy of the Poll for Knights of the Shire for Cambridgeshire, taken at Cambridge, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1722, under head of 'Eversden,' occurs :—

Rob<sup>t</sup> Leete.

Ch. Leete.

„ 1780. In the Poll for the election of two Representatives in Parliament for the County of Cambridge, on Thursday, Sept., 14, 1780; in Longstow Hundred, under head 'Little Eversden,' these :—

Ducket Leet } (Freeholders.)  
Robert Leet }

The execution of the 'Award' relating to the Inclosure of the Parishes of Great and Little Eversden, in the County of Cambridge, was proclaimed in their respective parish-churches, on Sunday the 15th day of May, 1814. Jackey Leete, Charles Leete, and William Leete, are named in this Award; by which they became entitled to, and received, various allotments of land, at the time of the Inclosure referred to.

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TOFT,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

A.D. 1303. 31. Edw. I. In lib feod milit Epi<sup>9</sup>. Elien<sup>9</sup>. Richard le Lyte held in Toft & Cumberton part of a Kn<sup>ts</sup> fee of the Bishop of Ely.  
*Cole MSS. Vol. xxii, fol. 174.*

„ 1326-7. 1 Edw. III. Robtus fil Lete (Robert son of Lete) of Toft was assessed to a Subsidy. *Subsidy Rolls for Cambridgeshire.*

The old Parish Register of Toft, in Cambridgeshire, commences thus :—

“This booke was begun in M<sup>r</sup> Edmund Bendifhes tyme who was parson of the Church and parish of St. Andrew in Toft<sup>e</sup> a<sup>o</sup> dni 1539 & in the 30 yere of our soveraigne Lord King Henry the eight & the 10 day of October.

*Christeninge.*

Ales Sotton the daughter of Roger Sutton Gentlema<sup>n</sup> & Audrey his wife was baptized the 10 day of October in the Church before named. M<sup>r</sup> Edmund Bendish godfath<sup>r</sup>. Katheren Colveld & Elen Lete gentlewome<sup>n</sup> be Godmdhers to the foresd Ales Sutton.”

## KINGSTON, CAMBS.

*Assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire :—*

A.D. 1522-23 (14-15 Hen. VIII.):—	Kingston	John Lette,	in goods	£6.
„ 1566-67 (8 Eliz.):—	„	Flower Leete, Widow,	in lands	£2.
„ 1571-72 (13 Eliz.):—	„	Flower Leete, Widow	„	£2.
„ 1602-3 (1 James I.):—	„	Gyles Leet,	„	£2.
„ 1608-9 (7 James I.):—	„	Giles Leete, Gent.,		£2.
„ 1620-21 (19 James I.):—	„	Giles Leet, Gent.,	„	£2.

The Parish Register of Kingston, Cambs., is imperfect. Of the following extracts it yielded only the third and fourth; the four other, much older entries, were supplied from Bishops' Transcripts relating to Kingston; preserved at Ely.

A.D.

1609. Gyles Leete, signs as Churchwarden of Kingston.

### Marriages.

1626. Mr. Cornelius Archer and M<sup>rs</sup> Dorathy Leete were married y<sup>e</sup> ffirst day of february.  
 1743. William Leete & Rose Green of G<sup>t</sup> Eversden were married July 4.  
 1752. Joseph Day of Little Eversden & Flora Leete of Great Eversden were married June 30.

### Burials.

1589. Geo. s. of Mr. Gyles Leit burd. 18 Sept.  
 1626. M<sup>r</sup> Giles Leete was bueryed y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1626.
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# WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

RELATING TO THE EVERSDEN BRANCH OF THE FAMILY OF LEETE.

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The importance of Wills in reference to the disposition of property is obvious; but, beyond the legal aspect of these instruments, Wills and Administrations are very useful to the genealogist, on account of the personal data they supply often enabling him to enrich, and trace with greater certainty, Family descent.

We are fortunate in having obtained from Somerset House, Peterborough, and other probate centres a number of Wills of members of the Leete family. The names of, and data concerning, the numerous persons mentioned in these Wills, on being collated with entries in Parish Registers, and other coeval records, have materially aided in the construction of our Family pedigree.

The following Wills and Administrations are for the most part arranged in chronological order: they relate only to the Eversden branch of the Leetes; those concerning the Oakington branch will be found under Oakington; and the remaining Leete Wills, etc., elsewhere in this volume.

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**Admin<sup>n</sup>.** HELEN LEETE of EVERSDEN, Cambs., A.D. 1564.

**Helen Leete** of Eversden. Adm. granted to **Thomas Leete**, her son, 2 May, 1564. She is described as a widow.

[Helen or Ellen Leete was the wife of John Leete of Eversden, Cambs., whose name stands at the head of the Eversden Branch

of the Family, in the Heralds' Visitation of Cambridgeshire in 1619.]

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**Admin<sup>n</sup>.** WILLIAM LEETE of MELBOURNE, A.D. 1560.

**William Leete** of Melbourne, Administration granted to **Flower Lete**, the relict, 29 June.

[This William was the eldest son of the above named John and Helen Leete of Eversden.]

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**Will** of EDMOND LEETE of EVERSDEEN, A.D. 1551.

"In the Name of god Amen I **Edmunde Leete** of eūsdon in the Dyoces of Elye of perfecte memorye do make my laste wyll & testamēt in this maner followinge ffyrste I cōmende my soule to the mercye of god & my bodye to y<sup>e</sup> earthe tyll y<sup>t</sup> shall please god to rayse it to the lyff eūlastyng. And I wyll that all my goods lands & tenemētes be distributede one this maner followinge fyrste I geve to my **father** xij royalls & all that he hathe in his custodye. I geve to my **mother** iiij Oxen & ij mylche bese Also I geve to my broother **Wyttm** iiij mylche bese iiij yonge bulloks & xx<sup>s</sup> in monye & to eūye one off his chylder<sup>e</sup> xx<sup>s</sup>. I geve to my **brother Thomas** xx<sup>te</sup> quarters off barleye iiij<sup>li</sup> in monye & ij Drawyge steeres. I geve to Oliver Warneyr xl<sup>s</sup> & to his syster xl<sup>s</sup>. I geve to my **aunte Madew** xl<sup>s</sup> to distribut emonge hyr chyldrē. I geve to eūye one of my sarvantes x<sup>s</sup> a peece & to everye one of my fathers v<sup>s</sup> a peece. I geve to v prestes whiche my **broother Robert** knowethe x<sup>s</sup> a peece. I geve all my man-? to the poore besydes that w<sup>t</sup> shall keepe my howse tyll mychaellmas. I wyll that the poore scolers & other townesmen have geven oij<sup>li</sup> wherof xl<sup>s</sup> shalbe geven at Ashewell All the resydew of my goods vnbequethed & cattalls I geve to my **brother Robert** & to his eyres, w<sup>t</sup> all my free lande y<sup>t</sup> I bought off Mr Seyngeorge w<sup>t</sup> all thappurtenances closis & other thynges thervnto belongynge & one aker off lande .hat I bought of Roberte harwarde & one sellyone\* that I bought off Chrystoffer Roger Kynge in the quarye & also one sellyone of John Greystocke the elder. I wyll that my **father** and my **mother** have all the free lande vnbequeathed y<sup>t</sup> I have enye ryght too & I surrender all my Coppye houlds in Eūsdon to theyme jountlye

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\* *Selion*, a ridge of land between two furrows :  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre pieces.

to gether & to theyer eyres savyng onlye the newe howse w<sup>h</sup> I dwell in w<sup>t</sup> the appurtenances therevnto belongyge w<sup>h</sup> I hartelye desyer my **father & mother** in the Lorde to surrender to my **brother Robert** lyke as I have freelye surrendered & geven to hym & hys eyres. If therbe anye ma<sup>n</sup> that shall w<sup>t</sup>stande this my laste wyll & testament eyther by theme or by theyre assynges y<sup>t</sup> the sayde partie or parties nether receyve nor have enye proffytt off this my wyll, or that shall cōtrarye my **brother Roberts** dowinge in any thyng whome I make my onlye Executore & Dower off all my Wyll Theyse beyng wyttnesses geven the xij daye of Julii 1551 & the fyfte yere of Edward the vj<sup>th</sup> p<sup>r</sup>s<sup>t</sup> Wyllm hvet Roberte lane Thomas Chapma<sup>n</sup>?"

*Proved* in the Archdeacon's Court of Ely,  
on the xxii August, 1551.

[Edmond was the second son of John Leete, whose name stands at the head of the Eversden Branch of the Family.]

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**Adm<sup>n</sup>** ROBERT LEETE of EVERSSEN MAGNA, A.D. 1597.

**Robert Leete** of Eversden Magna. Administration granted to **Alice Leet**, his widow, 17<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1597.—*Archd<sup>n</sup>s Court of Ely*.

[This Robert was the third son of John Leete of Eversden.]

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**Will** of FLOWRE LEETTE of KINGSTON, CAMBS. A.D. 1580.

"*In the Name of god Amen.* The xxv<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill in the yere of our Lord god 1580. And in the xxij<sup>th</sup> yere of the Reigne of o<sup>r</sup> so<sup>u</sup>aigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of god Quene of England ffraunce & Irelande Defendor of the fayth, etc. / I **fflowre Leette** of Kyngston in the Countie of Cambridge widowe, in the Dioc<sup>e</sup> of Elye being sicke in bodie, and yett of good & p<sup>r</sup>itt remēbrance (thanks be to god) doe ordeyne declare & make this my last will and testament in ma<sup>n</sup> & forme followinge and doe Utterlie Revoke & renounce all other former



wills by me heretofore made / ffyrst I comitt my sowle into the hands of Allmyhtie god the father the sonne and the holye ghost three psons & one god in Trinitie &c / And my bodie to be buried at the discretion of myne executo<sup>rs</sup> according to the laudable custome y<sup>t</sup> this Realme of Englonde. / Itm I give & bequeath to **Marsie Seddon my daught<sup>r</sup>** the some of twentie pounds of good & lawfull money of Englonde, to be payde to her w<sup>thin</sup> one yeare next aft<sup>r</sup> my Deceasse by my executo<sup>rs</sup> Itm I give to all the **children** of the sayd **Marsie Seddon** now being, the Some of Ten pounds of good & lawfull money of Englonde to be equallye devided amonge them within one yeare next aft<sup>r</sup> my Decesse, so that their fater or anye other sufficient pson wilbe bounde to discharg myne Executours for the same. / Itm I give & bequeath to eūye one of the **children** of **Ellyn Widdowes my daughter** the Some of twentie shillings to be payde vnto them within one yeare next aft<sup>r</sup> my Deceasse. / Itm I give & bequeath to **Giles Leett my sonne** my table in the haule w<sup>th</sup> the twoo fforme thereunto belonging, the hangings in the haulle and also in the parlour, the table in the parlo<sup>r</sup>., the Round table in the plo<sup>r</sup>. Sixe bussett stooles and the cubborde or presse in the parlo<sup>r</sup>., one greatt chaire, the bedsted & the Trundle bedde in the parlo<sup>r</sup>. / my best fether beede, my best coverlett, my best carpett, one bolster, twoo pillowes, twoo blanketts, twoo paire of flaxen sheetts, and one paire of harden sheetts, my best Table clothe & one dusson of table napkins, sixe of the best pewt<sup>r</sup> platters, sixe of the best pewter dishes, sixe of the best porringers, my best brasse panne, my best brasse pott & one stwen brasse pott, twoo great spitts, my querne, two planks, one kneading trough & one powldring trough. / Itm I give & beq<sup>th</sup> to the sayd **Giles Leett** my sonne all those my lands and tenements howsses or buyldings and Closses w<sup>th</sup> all and singler their app<sup>r</sup>ten<sup>n</sup>cs sett lyeng & being in the Towne and feilds of Kyngston aforesayde in the sayde Countie, To have & to holde to the sayde **Giles Leette** his heires and assignes in man<sup>r</sup> form & condicon followinge, that is to saye if the sayde **Giles Leett** shall proove or cause to be p<sup>r</sup>oved this my sayde last will and testament and the same execute & fulfill in all poynts accordinge to the intente teno<sup>r</sup> forme & treu meaninge of the same / That then this p<sup>r</sup>sent gyfte & bequest of all these my sayd lands and tenements howsses buyldings and Closses w<sup>th</sup> all & singler their app<sup>r</sup>ten<sup>n</sup>cs to stande remayne & be in full force & power / Butt if the sayd **Giles** shall fayll either in p<sup>r</sup>ovinge of my sayde will or in the exequution of y<sup>e</sup> same Then I will, give, & bequeath all the sayde Lands & te<sup>n</sup>ts howsses buyldings and closses w<sup>th</sup> all & singler their app<sup>r</sup>ten<sup>n</sup>cs

vnto **Ellyn Widdowes**, **Marie Rogers**, **M<sup>s</sup>ie Seddon**, **Agnes Leette** & **Luce Leett** my daught<sup>rs</sup> & to theire heyres for eſ. Itm I give and bequeath to the pore people in Kyngston twentie shillings to be payde to them w<sup>th</sup>in three yeares next aft<sup>r</sup> my decesse, that is to saye evrye yeare sixe shillings viij<sup>d</sup>. Itm I give to Wilt<sup>m</sup> Tompson my late servante one coombe of barley. Itm I give to Rob<sup>t</sup>. Johnson one coombe of barley. Itm I give & bequeath to **John Rogers sonne of Marie Rogers** my Daught<sup>r</sup> the some of xx<sup>li</sup> of good and lawfull money of Englande to be payde to hym when he shall accomplish his full aige of xxj<sup>tie</sup> yeares. / Itm I give & bequeath to **Cassandra Rogers** & **Elizabeth Rogers** daught<sup>rs</sup> of the sayde Marie the some of x<sup>li</sup> of good & lawfull money of Englande, to be payde to them at their aige of ffytene yeares or at the daye of their marriage w<sup>ch</sup> shall fyrst happe<sup>?</sup> / And if it happen anye of them to departe this p<sup>re</sup>sent worlde before the receipt of their sayd Legacy, then I will that it shalbe devided equally amonge the onlivers of them. And if it fortune M<sup>r</sup> Jhon Rogers their father to depart this worlde befor anye of the sayd children shall have received their sayd Legacy, then I will that the sayde **Marye Rogers** their mother shall have the sayd xxx<sup>li</sup>. to them before bequeathed & to be payde vnto her within one yeare next aft<sup>r</sup> the decesse of her sayde husbände. / Itm I give will & bequeath to **Agnes Leett** my daught<sup>r</sup> my greatt pott & u<sup>ch</sup> was her grandmothers, & my best greatt pann but three, three platters, iij pewter disshes, Itm I gyve & bequeath to **Luce Leett** my Daughter my thyrde brasse pott & my least brasse panne, iij pewter platters, & iij pewter disshes. Itm I give & bequeath to **Ellyn Widdowes** my Daught<sup>r</sup> my fflowre sylver spoones. Itm I give & bequeath to Dorothie Widdowes one year<sup>ing</sup> calf. / Itm I give to fflowre Ware<sup>ne</sup>r one Ewe & one Lambe /. Itm I give & bequeath to **Marrian Wyse** my **Syster** one golde Rynge w<sup>ch</sup> was my mothers / Itm I give to Damyan Peck one ewe & one Lambe /. Itm I give to George my servante one bushell of wheatt /. Itm I give to Margaret Awfeld one bushell of barley. / Itm I give to John Greystock the sonne of Richard Greystock one busshell of barley /. Itm I give and beq<sup>th</sup> to John Widdowes my sonne in lawe the some of xij<sup>li</sup> & xij<sup>s</sup> of good & lawfull money of Englande w<sup>ch</sup> I doeowe unto hym, to be payde vnto hym w<sup>th</sup>in one quarter of a yeare next aft<sup>r</sup> my Decesse. / Itm I give & bequeath to **Giles Leete** my sonne and John Widdowes my sonne in Law the some of Thyrtene pounds sixe shillings viij<sup>d</sup> of good & Lawfull money of Englande to be equallye devided betwene them. the w<sup>ch</sup> **Giles Leette** & John Widowes I doe ordeyne constitute & appoynte myne executo<sup>rs</sup> to see my detts

payd & this my last will & testament executd & fulfilled / All the Residew of my goods chattell<sup>s</sup> Leasses and readie money not yett given willed nor bequeathed, my detts & legacs being payde I give & bequeath vnto all my Daughters w<sup>ch</sup> they shalbe living, to be equallye devided amonge them. In Wittnesse whereof to this my last will & testament I have sett to my hand & my Seall in the p<sup>s</sup>ence of John Peck & Aline Greystocke & Radulph Atwell Chirurgian."

(*Proved* 18th May, 1580 : In the Archdeacon's Court of Ely.)

Flower, or Flora Leete, was the widow of William, eldest son of John Leete of Eversden, whose name is at the head of the Family Pedigree. Her husband appears to have died at Melbourn, Cambs., about 1560; for, on the 29th of June, in that year, Administration of his estate was granted to Flower Leete, the relict. After the death of her husband, Flower Leete settled at Kingston, Cambs., her Will being dated from that place.

In this Instrument, along with the names of her other children, the testatrix mentions her daughter Marie, wife of John Rogers, and also, three of their children, namely, John, Cassandra, and Elizabeth Rogers.

John Rogers, the husband of Marie, daughter of Flower Leete, was the son of John Rogers the proto-Martyr in the reign of Queen Mary. [*See Pedigree on following page.*]

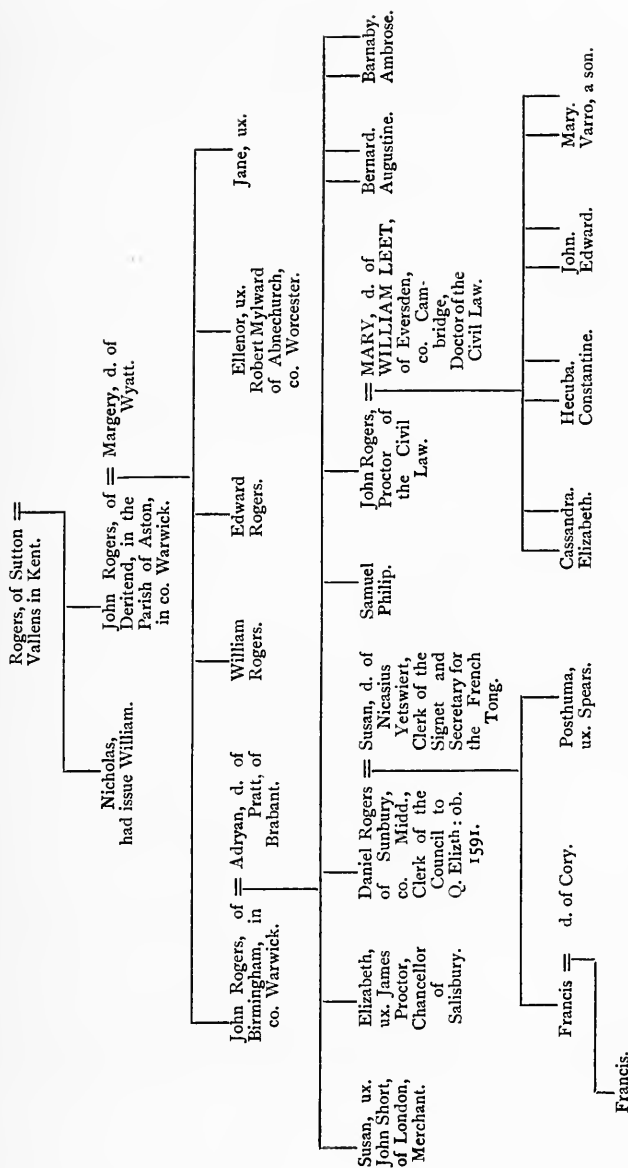
Copy of a Lease, dated 1561, of a house called 'Sparrows,' and land, at Melbourn; granted by the Master and Fellows of Peter-House College, Cambridge, to "ffloure lete of Kyngston in the Countie of Cambrydge. Wydowe."

#### THE MASTER & FELLOWS OF PETERHOUSE.

**Flower Lete.**—"This Indenture made the fourthe daye of Marche in the fourthe yere of the reign of our Soueraign lady Elizabeth by the grace of god quene of Englonde ffirance & Ireland Defendo<sup>r</sup> of the feyth &c Between Androwe Perne Docte<sup>r</sup> in Dyvynyte Master or p<sup>r</sup>sydente of the College

# PEDIGREE OF ROGERS.

From Harl. MS., 1563, and Harl. MS., 1551; f. 59b, and 60.



NOTE.—Though there is no mention of the Marian Protomartyr in this Pedigree, there can be no doubt that the John who is recorded as marrying Adryan Pratt was that celebrated and good man. The question is fully discussed in Colonel Chester's life of the martyr.

Of the eight children of John Rogers the son and Mary Leet, it may be assumed that five of them died in infancy, as three only are mentioned in the Will of Flower Leete, their grandmother; these are Elizabeth, John, and Cassandra. A Cassandra Rogers is found to have married into the Sussex family of Saris, and from its being a very uncommon name, we may fairly identify the one with the other.

of Synt Peter cōmonly called Peter howse in Cambrydge & the ffelowes of the same College on the one pte and fflowre lete of Kyngston in the Countie of Cambrydge Wydowe on the other pte Wytnessyth that the seyd Master & ffelowes for certen causes & consyderacyons them speccially movyng w<sup>t</sup> one assent and cōsent haue dymysed grantyd & to ferme letten And by theis p̄sents doo fullye dymyse graunte & to ferme lette vnto the seyd fflowre lete all that ther mesuage called Sparrowes & forty Acres of arrable lond therunto belongyng be yt more or lesse & all other ther clocs meadowes feadyngs pasturs lybties p̄fytts & comodyteis sett lying & beyng in the Towne fylds & p̄sshe of Melbourn in the seyd Countie of Cambrydge Whych late were in the tenure & occupacyon of oon Wyllm lete late of Melbourn aforesayd decessed late husbond of the seyd fflowre or whych nowe are in the tenure and occupacyon of the same fflowre & her Assygnes To have and to holde the seyd mesuage forty Acres of lond clocs meadowes feadyngs pasturs Lyberties p̄fytts & comodyteis w<sup>t</sup> ther App<sup>t</sup>tennces to the seyd fflowre lete her executs & Assygnes from the ffeste of Seynt Mychell tharchaungell next comyng after the date of theis p̄sent Indentures vnto the ende & terme of twenty & one yers then next ymmedyatly ensuyng fully to be cōplete & endyd Yeldyng & paying therfore yerely duryng the seyd time to the seyd Master & felowes of the same College & ther Successours in the ffeste of the Purifycacyon of o<sup>r</sup> blyssed lady Seynt Mary the Vyrgyn the some of forty Shyllings of good & lawfull money of Englonde," etc, etc.

*(From the Old Register of the College of St. Peter, Cambridge.)*

### Will of GILES LEETE of KINGSTON, CAMBS. A.D. 1626.

"In the Name of God, &c. I **Giles Leete** of Kingston in the County of Cambridge gentelma<sup>n</sup>, being in p̄fect memory, thanks be given to God therfore, though weake in body, do comēd my soule into the handes of Almighty God, etc.....I...bequeath vnto myne eldest daughter **Dorothy Leet** so much land of free & copy<sup>d</sup> with their appurtenances as cometh to twenty poundes by the yeer And the same land to be sett out and allotted at the discretion of Thomas Grastock the elder and John Angood now inhabitants of the towne of Kingston in the county of Cambridge. Provided withall that my daught<sup>r</sup> **Dorothy** shall not enioy nor enter vpon the forenamed landes with appurtenances during the life of her mother M<sup>rs</sup>. **Margaret Leet** And also then not to enter upon the said landes till the Ladyday after her Mother's deceas But in case my said daughter **Dorothy** shall dye without yssue of her body lawfully begotten that then the aforesd landes shall come vnto my daughter **Anne** and hir heires lawfully begotten for ever Item I bequeath vnto my other daughter **Anne** wife of **Vincent Goreham** forty shillings to be payd hir within one year after my death. The rest of all my goodes landes & tenements with thier appurtenances I giue to my Wife for the full discharge and payment of all my detts whom I appoint my sole and only

executrix. In witness hereof I haue heer set to my hand the seventeenth day of October in the yeer of our Lord one thousand six hundred twenty and six  
**Giles Leet** Robert Osbaston p<sup>son</sup> Henry Troughton, **Dorothy Leet.**"

*Proved* in the Archdeacon's Court at Cambridge

by **Margaret Leete**, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1626.

[Giles or Gyles Leete was the only son of the before mentioned William and Flower Leete. He attended the Visitation of Cambridgeshire by the Heralds in 1619; when he proved his descent from his grandfather John. At the Record Office, London, are preserved some details of an Action in the Court of Requests in 1595 (37 Elizabeth), in which this Giles Leete, then resident at Shelland, in Suffolk, sued one Barnard Veasey of Ely, for the recovery of the title deeds of his paternal estates in Eversden, Kingston, and Toft. In 1609 Giles was resident at Kingston, for, in that year, he signed its Parish Register as Churchwarden. Subjoined is a facsimile of his Autograph, traced from the coeval Bishops' Transcripts.

*Giles Leete*

1609

*the 27<sup>th</sup> of September*

*Robert Leete } Churchwarden*

Giles Leete married Margaret, daughter of John Bacon, of Hassett in Suffolk, and second cousin of the illustrious Francis Bacon, Viscount St. Albans.]

**Will** of MARGARET LEETE of CHESTERTON, CAMBS. A.D. 1640.

She bequeaths to her "two grandchildren **William Goreham & Mary Goreham** one longe Table standinge in the Hall of the house att Kingston," "three beddstalls, one presse, one greate chest, six turkey worke Cushions, two turkey worke carpetts, three featherbeds, three boulsters, three blancketts, foure couerletts and foure pillowes, one truncke, w<sup>th</sup> all the bookes therein, one double salt of silver and guilt, two silver spoones, tenne paire of sheetes, six paire of pillow beeres, one longe flaxen cloth, six fine Table napkins, one brasse kettle, one brasse pott, A brasse chafingdish two brazen candlestickes, one brasse posnett & a skillett, one paire of cobirons & a warminge panne, six peecs of pewter, one longe forme, All w<sup>ch</sup> doe remaine in the custody of my daughter **Anne**, And I doe giue unto them one longe Diap table cloth, one bible, & one bedstead, w<sup>ch</sup> are in the custody of my daughter **Archer** as lent unto her. And I doe give and bequeath vnto my said grandchildren all other my goods and chattells vnbequeathed," etc. She appoints the said **William Goreham** sole executor: and signs "**Margarett Leete.**"

*(Will dated 20th January, 1640 : in Consistory Court of Ely.)*

[She was the widow of Gyles Leete of Kingston. Mention is made in the Will of her two grandchildren, William and Mary Goreham; to whom she bequeaths certain relics, and articles of furniture, from the Hall of her house at Kingston.]

**Will** of ROBERT LEET of LITTLE EVERSSEN. A.D. 1713.

"I **Robert Leet** of Little Eversden in the County of Cambridge, Yeoman . . . . give and devise unto my dear and loving **Wife Judith Leet** All that piece or parcell of pasture containing by estimation sixteen poles in length & four poles square together with a Wind Mill & all manner of Utensills and tacke thereunto belonging and now therewith used erected on the said peice of ground & now in the Tenure & Occupaçon of Thomas Jeaxe lyeing & being within the Parish of Harlton in the County of Cambr next a certain place called the Beacon Green . . . . . and after her decease to **Simeon Leet** my **Grandson** & his heirs." Mentions his grandson **Robert Leet**, brother of Simeon. Appoints his **wife**

**Judith Leet** sole Executrix, to whom he leaves all the rest of his goods and chattels, after payment of his debts, funeral expences and legacies.

*Dated 13th August, 1709 : Proved in Court of Archdy., Ely, 11th April, 1713.*

[This Robert was fifth in the line of descent from John of Eversden; and he was ancestor of four successive descendants, each of whom was known, one after the other, as Robert Leete of the Quarry Farm, Eversden.]

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**Will** of ROBERT LEET of LITTLE EVERSSEN. A.D. 1709-10.

The Testator gives to his son **Robert** the Quarry where he lives, & all the appurtenances belonging thereto, on his attaining the age of 25 years; subject to a payment of five pounds *per annum* to the testator's wife, **Anne**; to his son **Charles** he gives a house "at the Towns End," with its appurtenances; to his son **Ducket**, another house & appurtenances; with twenty pounds apiece "to the three boys," and the sum of "Thirty-four Pounds in my Lord Radnors hand, due upon a Bill;" which, when paid, was to be equally divided between them. To his daughters **Rebecca, & Esther**, and "to the Child unborne," he gives thirty pounds each. Gives to his wife **Ann** all the rest of his moveable goods unbequeathed, & makes her his sole Executrix.

*Dated 20th Janr. 1709-10 : Proved in Court of Archdeaconry of Ely  
11th March 1709-10.*

[Robert Leet mentions in the Will his three sons, Robert, Charles, and Ducket. This Ducket Leete was the father of another Charles Leete, and grandfather of William Leete, who died at Little Eversden in 1865.

William came of a long-lived stock. The pedigree shows that his grandfather Ducket Leete was born at Eversden in 1699, and lived to the patriarchal age of 94. His father, Charles, was born in 1742, and died at the age of 81; whilst he, himself,



attained the age of 84 years. Thus, from the birth of the grandfather Duckett Leete in 1699, to the death of his grandson William in 1865, we have the long intervening period of 166 years for the three generations.]

---

**Will** of ISRAEL LEET of LITTLE EVERS DEN. A.D. 1694.

"In the name of God Amen I **Israell Leet** of Little Eversden in the County of Camb<sup>r</sup> Blacksmith being sick in Body but sound & p<sup>r</sup>fect in mind & memory praised be God for the same doe make & ordaine this my last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup> in manner and forme following First I resigne my Soul, etc. . . . . And for all my worldly goods that God hath endowed me with I dispose of them in manner & forme following Imp<sup>is</sup> I give & bequeath unto **Samuell Leet my sonne** five pounds of Lawfull English money to be paid hym by my Executrix three yeares after my decease And in case my sonne **Samuell** dye before the three yeares be expired Then my Will is my sonne **William Leet** shall have the five pounds paid to him by my Executrix. If I give unto my sonne **Israell Leet** one shilling. Item I give unto my sonne **William Leet** one shilling. Item I give unto my sonne **Israell Leet** my Tenem<sup>t</sup> at my orchard end with thapp<sup>t</sup>ences thereunto belonging being now in the occupa<sup>c</sup>on of William Hewes to enter upon at such time as he shall attaine to the age of one & twenty yeares w<sup>ch</sup> Tenem<sup>t</sup> I give & bequeath unto my sonne **Israell Leet** & his heires for ever Item I give & bequeath unto my sonne **Israell Leet** ffoure acres of Coppyehold land lyinge and being in the bound & Feilds of Great Eversden being part of the Eight acres w<sup>ch</sup> I lately purchased of Wilt<sup>m</sup> Padgett w<sup>ch</sup> lately John Peppercorns w<sup>ch</sup> ffoure acres I give to my sonne **Israell Leet** & his heires for ever to enter upon at such time as he shall attaine to the age of one & Twenty yeares Item I give unto my sonne **William Leet** the other four acres of Coppye land lying & in the bounds and Feilds of Great Eversden w<sup>ch</sup> I lately purchased of Wilt<sup>m</sup> Padgett being lately Wilt<sup>m</sup> Peppercorns to enter upon at such time as he shall attaine to the age of one & Twenty yeares w<sup>ch</sup> ffoure acres I give & bequeath to my sonne **Wilt<sup>m</sup> Leet** & his heires for ever, likewise my Will is that **Martha my wife** shall enjoy my Tenem<sup>t</sup> w<sup>th</sup> the Eight acres of Coppye land given to my Two sonns **Israel & Wilt<sup>m</sup> Leet** untill such time as they shall both attaine to the age

of one & Twenty yeares 1l. All the rest of my worldly goods unbequeathed I give & bequeath unto **Martha my wife** Whome I make sole Exe<sup>r</sup> of this my last Will & Testam<sup>t</sup>. Israell Leet his m<sup>ake</sup>," etc.

Will undated. *Proved* 19<sup>th</sup> March 1694,  
in Archdeaconry Court of Ely.

[Israel Leet, son of Simeon Leete, was baptised at Little Eversden, in 1609. He was uncle to Robert Leet, of Eversden, who died in 1713. In his Will, Israel names Martha, his wife; and his three sons, Samuel, William, and Israel Leet.]

**Will** of JUDITH LEET, of LITTLE EVERSDEN. A.D. 1716.

Extract from :—"And as touching the disposing of my worldly goods & chattells I dispose thereof as followeth Imprimis : I give to my son **Simion Leet** one shilling to be paid him by my Executor herein after named immediately after my decease Item I give & Bequeath unto my **Grandaughter Elizabeth Leet** the biggest Square Table which stands now in the Hall & a dresser with a pewter Shelve thereunto belonging & ffour rushen Chaires which are now in the Hall belonging to the house wherein I now live and ffour chaires in the parlour one flock bed & bolster not stuff & three flock pillowes belonging to the bed & the bedsted in the parlor & another bedsted in the chamber two paire of hempen sheets the Glass case in the parlour & all thats now or shalbe in or upon it at the time of my decease & also two tubbs & two kinnells in the Kitchin & the biggest kettle but on & all my wollen cloaths. Item I give & Bequeath unto the said Elizabeth & her sister **Anne Leet** all my linnen-cloathes & apparrell equally to be divided between them Item I give and Bequeath unto the said **Anne Leet** my **Grandaughter** my black hood and staufte & two paire of hempen sheets And Lastly I give & Bequeath unto my **Grandson Simion Leet** all the rest of my goods & chattles not hereinbefore given or bequeathed by me, etc, and doe make & appoint him the said Simon Leet my grandson sole Executor," etc. (signed :—"Judith Leet," 9<sup>th</sup> May 1713.

*Proved* 24<sup>th</sup> November 1716 ;

in Court of Archdeaconry of Ely.)

[Judith was the wife of Robert Leet, of Eversden, who died in 1713; and grandmother of the first Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden.]

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**Will** of SIMEON LEET of LITTLE EVERSSEN. A.D. 1723.

In the Name of God Amen I **Simeon Leet** of Little Eversden in the County of Cambridge Yeoman being sick, etc.

"Item I give & bequeath to my son **Simeon Leet** the sūme of two pounds to be paid him four years after my decease," etc. ; "to my daughter **Elizabeth Setchill** one shilling" ; "to my Grandaughter **Elizabeth Setchill** tenn pounds to be paid to her when she shall come to the age of one & twentie years" ; "to my Son **Robert Leet** the sūme of six pounds" ; "to my Daughter **Ann Leet** the sūme of fiftie pounds" ; "to my son **Samuel Leet** twentie pounds, to be paid to him when he cometh to the age of one and twentie years ; Item I give and bequeath to my Son **Samuel Leet** all that Cottage or Tenement with the appurtinancis theirunto belonging cityate and being in Little Eversden now in the use of John Evins after the decease of my wife **Elizabeth** to him his heirs and assigns for ever. Item all the rest of my Goods and Chattells of whatsoever nature they be unbequeathed I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife **Elizabeth** and to my son **John Leet** whome I make constitute & appoint whole & sole Executors of this my Last Will & Testament only I except the Linen and that I give to my beloved wife for her use & for her to dispose of as she shall think meet only she shall pay to my son **John** fiftie shillings in consideration thereof they paying & Receiving all my debts," etc. (Signed) "**Simeon Leet,**" 5th March 1723.

(Proved 21<sup>st</sup> March 1723,  
in Court of Archdeaonry of Ely.)

[Simeon Leet, of Little Eversden, was father of the Simeon Leete, who first settled at Guilden Morden. The testator appointed his other son John, baptised at Little Eversden in 1708, to act as his executor. This John Leete was the father of Robert Leete, who settled at Royston in 1768. The Leetes of Guilden Morden

and of Royston, therefore, have for their common ancestor, Simeon Leete, of Little Eversden. He was sixth in the line of descent from John Leete, of Eversden. By way of imparting a living interest to this note, it may be added that, Mr. Joseph Leete, of Royston and South Norwood, to whom these genealogical researches are due, is the great-grandson of the above-named Robert Leete, of Royston.]

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**Will** of CHARLES LEET of EVERSSEN PARVA. A.D. 1728.

He gives to his wife **Mary Leet** all his real & personal estate for the term of her natural life, in case she keeps herself a widow ; but if she should marry, he wills that his son **Robert Leet**, on attaining the age of twenty-one years, should become the owner ; he paying to his sisters **Ann** and **Mary Leet** £10 apiece when they came of age. Testator's wife sole Executrix.

*Proved in Arch. Ct. Ely, 20 Feb. 1728.*

[Charles Leet was the son of Robert Leet, of Little Eversden, who died in 1709. He had two brothers, Robert and Duckett; and, by Mary, his wife, three children, namely, Robert, Mary and Anne. See *Chart of Eversden Branch of the Family*.

On a stone in Little Eversden Church, this :—"C.L. 1728," "which (says Mr. Cole) I was informed was for one Charles Leet." —*Cole's Collections, Vol. II. Additional 5803.*]

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**Will** of SAMUEL LEETE of LITTLE EVERSSEN. A.D. 1752.

Gives to his Wife **Mary Leete** the house in which he dwelt, with the adjoining croft & appurtenances, in Little Eversden, upon whose decease the aforesaid tenement, etc. was to pass to **Robert Leete**, eldest son of Robert Leete of Great Eversden, the Testator's brother. All the rest of his goods & chattels he bequeaths to his wife, & makes her sole executrix.

*Dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 1752 : proved 11<sup>th</sup> April 1752, in Archd. Ct., Ely.*

[Samuel Leete was brother to the first Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden; and of John Leete, father of Robert Leete, who settled at Royston in 1768.]

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**Will** of ROBERT LEETE of LITTLE EVERSDEN. A.D. 1762.

He gives to his son **Robert Leete**, & his heirs, his Quarry House, Limekiln, and Stone Quarry; all his freehold lands; and one half acre of copyhold land, abutting on the said Quarry, in Little Eversden. Also, eleven acres of copyhold arable land in Great Eversden ffield, held with the above named half acre of the Manor of Great & Little Eversden. To his son **Simeon Leete** he gives his copyhold cottage in Little Eversden, held of the same manor, & twenty-five pounds due to the Testator on Mortgage of a freehold cottage in Little Eversden, late of his brother **Charles Leete**, whose son **Robert** is mentioned in connection therewith. The Testator also gives his son **Simeon** £100 to be paid to him out of his farming stock. To his daughter the wife of John **Butler** of Great Eversden £20. The residue & remainder of his money, securities for moneys, goods, chattels & personal Estate 'whatsoever & wheresoever' he leaves to his son **Robert Leete**, & appoints him sole Executor.

*Dated 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1762: Proved 24<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1762. Archd. Ct. Ely.*

[This Robert Leete was seventh in descent from John Leete of Eversden; and the third in succession who bore the name of Robert. He inherited the Quarry from his father: and in his will he bequeaths the Quarry House and Stone Quarry to his son, the fourth Robert in regular succession.]

That the last-named Robert Leete served the Office of Churchwarden in his native parish is shewn by the following extract from—

*Ely Reg<sup>r</sup>. of Sequestrations.*

“Eversden } 19 July 1777. The sequestration of the Rectory & Parish Church  
Ry } of Little Eversden, in the County of Cambridge, & Diocese of

Ely, was granted to **Robert Leet**, Churchwarden of the said Parish. The same being vacant by the death of David Hughes, Clerk, the last Incumbent thereof."

The Will of this Robert Leete has not been found. He died from an accident in 1789. The subjoined memorial lines refer to his wife, and himself.

In the Churchyard of Little Eversden, within an iron-railed enclosure, a sepulchral stone is thus inscribed :—

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
LYDIA LEETE  
who departed this life  
October 29<sup>th</sup> 1782;  
Aged 47 years.  
Also  
ROBERT LEETE,  
husband of the above  
Lydia Leete;  
who departed this life  
October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1789,  
Aged 57 years.  
Also  
Eight of their Children,  
who all died in their  
infancy.

The above-named Robert Leete and Lydia his wife left two sons, Robert and Stephen, and a daughter named Lydia. It is to these three last-named members of the Family of Leete that the following notices specially refer.

ROBERT LEETE, early in life left Eversden, and settled in London. He was for some years in the Office of Excise, and also at the Mint. Gifted with a fine voice, and an accomplished musician besides, his decease was thus recorded in the *Gentleman's Magazine* :—

"Died, 25 Dec., 1835, at Brighton, aged 73, Robert Leete, esq., Secretary to the Catch Club and Musical Director of the Glee Club. He had been at the head of glee parties for half a century, and was much esteemed by his professional brethren, who, a few years ago presented him with a handsome piece of plate." Vol. 15. N.S., p. 213.

At his death his property passed to his sister Lydia, who, in turn, bequeathed a large portion of his estate to Mrs. Piggot, of Royston.

Among the bequests was a fine portrait of Robert Leete, which is now in the possession of Mr. Joseph Leete, of South Norwood. The interest of this painting is enhanced by the circumstance that it contains a representation of the Silver Vase alluded to in the above extract.

STEPHEN LEETE. The *Evangelical Magazine*, for April, 1840, contains a short biographic notice of this member of the Family ; and to it we are indebted for the following particulars respecting him. When about eighteen years old, Stephen Leete left Eversden for the great Metropolis. Through the influence of his brother Robert, he entered the Bank of England. In this establishment he continued forty years ; and such was his punctuality and systematic diligence, in all that time he was not more than twice below the mark of attendance. At the age of twenty Stephen joined the Independent Church assembling at Union Street, Borough ; he served the office of Deacon in this Church for thirty years ; and remained an honoured member of it more than half a century. He was connected with the leading religious and benevolent Institutions of his day.

He died on the 13th Nov., 1837, in the 71st year of his age.

Affixed to the inner N.W. wall of the Congregational Chapel at Great Eversden is a panel, inscribed as follows :—



STEPHEN LEETE.

ROBERT LEETE.

LYDIA LEETE.

*The originals of these three portraits are now in the possession of Mr. Joseph Leete.  
The lowermost two are from miniatures, executed by Wm. Behnes, in 1815.*





This Tablet is intended gratefully  
To record the following Bequests :—

1

Robert Leete late of Bridge Street, Westminster,  
who was born at Eversden Quarry in the Parish  
of Little Eversden, and died at Brighton  
Dec<sup>r</sup> 25, 1835, left by Will in the hands of  
Trustees, the sum of £200 in the 3 per cent  
Consols, the interest of which is to be applied  
to keep this place of worship in repair.

2

The said Robert Leete left also the further  
sum of £100, the interest thereof to be applied  
to the relief of poor members of the Church  
assembling in this place.

3

Stephen Leete, late of Blackfriars Road,  
brother of the above, who died Nov<sup>r</sup> 13, 1837,  
left by Will in the hands of Trustees pertaining  
to this Congregation the sum of £100 in the 3 per  
cent Consols, the interest thereof to be applied  
to the support of the worship of God in this place.

LYDIA LEETE. Attached to the interior wall of Little  
Eversden Church is a marble tablet, bearing the following  
inscription :—

Sacred  
to the memory of  
LYDIA LEETE  
who was born at the Quarry Farm  
in this parish  
and died at Bridge Street, Westminster  
August XXII, MDCCCLIV  
aged LXXVI.  
By her will she gave to the poor of this parish  
Three hundred pounds Consols  
The interest of which  
To be given away at Christmas in clothing and fuel.  
Also to  
Addenbrooke's Hospital at Cambridge  
One hundred pounds Consols  
on condition  
That one patient be admitted annually  
from this parish, free of charge.

Lydia Leete also left by her Will a freehold residence for the Minister of Great Eversden Chapel, for the time being, to live in ; and this house continues to be the abode of the Minister.

She was interred by the side of her father and mother, within the previously mentioned enclosure in the Churchyard of Little Eversden ; and this inscription was incised upon the stone that covers her remains :—

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
LYDIA LEETE,  
who was born at the Quarry Farm  
in this Parish,  
and died  
at Bridge Street, Westminster,  
August 22<sup>nd</sup> 1854.  
Aged 76 years.

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#### Will of WILLIAM LEETE of MILTON, CAMBS. A.D. 1812.

He bequeaths to his **nephew William Leete** of Little Eversden, in the county of Cambridge, the freehold messuage or tenement in Milton wherein he lived, with the yards, gardens, out-buildings, & appurtenances ; and also, all his Household furniture, goods, chattels, debts & securities for money, and all other his personal estate whatsoever ; subject to the payment of his just debts & funeral expenses ; & payment of certain legacies to the following persons, namely, his **brother Charles Leete** of Little Eversden (father of the testator's nephew, the said William Leete) ; to his **nephew Charles Leete**, & his servant Eleanor Frost. Appoints his nephew, William Leete, Sole Executor.

*Dated 16 May 1805 : proved in Cons<sup>r</sup>. Ct. of Ely, 17<sup>th</sup>. Oct. 1812.*

[William Leete, of Milton, Cambs., was the son of Duckett and Ellen Leete, of Little Eversden. He bequeathed to his

nephew William, the son of his brother, Charles Leete, of Little Eversden, the bulk of his property.

This nephew William had a brother named Charles, who settled in London. A road, that coursed through an area of Chelsea, covered with suburban villas, is said to have been named after him, **Leete Street**. Owing to the expansion of the Metropolis, the locality having become favourable for the erection of more important residences, under these altered circumstances, the London County Council ordered the road which, for nearly a century, had been known as "**Leete Street**," to be re-named "**Cadogan Gardens**," in honour of the ground landlord, the Earl of Cadogan.

Charles Leete died at Northumberland Street, Strand, on the 9th of Sept., 1832, and on the 15th of the same month he was interred in the vaults of the neighbouring Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields.

Attached to the interior wall of Little Eversden Church are marble tablets, commemorative of Charles Leete, and his two sons; —brother and nephews of the testator, William Leete, of Milton.

One of the tablets referred to is inscribed thus :—

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
CHARLES LEETE  
who died October 20, 1823.  
Aged 81 years.  
Also  
SUSANNA, wife of  
the above  
Charles Leete ;  
who died April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1825,  
Aged 77 years.

The other tablet has these inscriptions :—

Sacred  
to the Memory of  
WILLIAM LEETE,  
(son of Charles and  
Susanna Leete)  
Died April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1865,  
Aged 84.

*He was Churchwarden of this  
Parish for 50 years, and a true  
friend to the poor.*

---

CHARLES LEETE  
(brother of the above  
William Leete)  
died Sept<sup>r</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>, 1832, Aged 53 ;  
and was interred in the vaults of  
St. Martin's in the Fields Church,  
London.

The Will of Charles Leete, who died on Sept. 9th, 1832, was proved at Somerset House on the 19th of the same month. In it he is described as a Wine Merchant. He names his wife Mary, and his eleven sons and daughters. The testator also mentions his brother, William Leete, of Little Eversden, whom he appoints one of the Trustees under his Will.

It was my good fortune, when I visited Eversden some twenty-five years since, to have for my guide the late Rev. Mr. Yorke, who was then Vicar of the Parish. This gentleman had known well old William Leete, the last male representative of the Leetes, who had been born at Eversden, and had there lived all through his honourable career of eighty-four years.

This William Leete was visited in 1864 by my antiquarian friend, Mr. Charles Bridger ; but in the course of the following year he died. Like so many of his ancestors, he had filled in this

same parish church the respected office of Warden. The advertisement of his death in *The Times* was thus given :—

“On the 17th April, 1865, at Little Eversden, William Leete, Esq., aged 84. He was the oldest inhabitant of the parish, and had been Churchwarden for more than 50 years.”

A niece of William Leete, daughter of his brother Charles, lived with her uncle during the latter years of his life. In 1864 she was married to Mr. Henry James King, a farmer at Eversden.

*Extract from “The Times” (1864).—*“On the 31st Dec., at St. Matthew’s Church, Islington, by the Rev. U. Davis, Henry James King, of Little Eversden, near Cambridge, to Esther, youngest surviving daughter of the late Charles Leete, Esq., and niece of William Leete, Esq., of Little Eversden.”

She was the last person that lived at Eversden who was born a Leete ; but, with the change from her maiden to her married name, the once familiar ancestral name disappeared from the current annals of the Parish.]

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## GUILDEN MORDEN, CAMBS.

The genealogical chart which appeared in my first book included the names of many members of the family taken from the Registers of Guilden Morden and adjoining parishes. Soon after its publication my book came to the notice of Mr. John Smyth, of Bygrave, Herts., who addressed to me the following letter : \*

BYGRAVE HOUSE, BALDOCK,  
Jan. 24, 1883.

DEAR SIR,

Accept my hearty thanks for the handsome volume you have so kindly presented to me.

It is a masterpiece of genealogical research which I shall value very much.

Our esteemed friend, Mr. John Warren, has a great deal to answer for in bringing to your notice my slight genealogical sketch, for should I ever venture to publish my collection of family records, it must be upon the lines of "The Family of Leete." I hope shortly to send you a manuscript copy of the pedigree of the Leetes of Guilden Morden, which is now under revision.

No change will be made in the original notes copied from the several parish registers, as I quite agree with you it will be better not to alter them.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

JOHN SMYTH.

I have incorporated in the Chart attached to the present volume all the additional materials so generously supplied by Mr. John Smyth, and the record will be found most comprehensive. A grateful acknowledgment is also due to the courtesy of Mr. George Edward Smyth, of Henlow, Beds., who placed at my disposal many interesting details concerning Wills, Marriage Licences, and other family matters.

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\* The writer of the above letter, the late Mr. John Smyth, of Bygrave, Herts., married his cousin, Elizabeth, the daughter of Hugh Fossey and Mary Smyth (*née* Leete), of Guilden Morden.

Guilden Morden, in Cambridgeshire, lies about eight miles south-west of Eversden ; near to the borders of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

In the days of King Edward II there were two principal manors here; one of these then belonging to the family of Avenels. Writing at the commencement of last century, Lysons observes :— “The Manor of Avenells, in which the family of that name were succeeded by the Hydes, and Hatfields, is now the property of Simeon Leete, Esq.” It was his grandfather of the same name, who, removing from his home at Little Eversden, settled, previously to the year 1725, at Guilden Morden ; where he became lord of the Manor of Avenels ; and ancestor of the Leetes of Guilden Morden.

To the Parish Register of Guilden Morden, and the Bishop's Transcripts of entries recorded therein, we are indebted for the following notices relating to the Family of Leete.

A.D.

### Baptisms.

- 1725. Ann, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leet, 26 Sept.
- 1726. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 14 Nov.
- 1729. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 1 Oct.
- 1734. Tabitha, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 27 Oct.
- Simeon Leete signed as Churchwarden, from 1734 to 1774.*
- 1735. Judith, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 16 Nov.
- 1739. Simeon, son of Simeon and Mary Leete, 6 Apr.
- 1740. Simeon, son of Simeon and Mary Leete, 17 Nov.
- 1740. Judith, admitted into the Church, having been privately baptised before.
- 1765. Ede, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 20 Jan.
- 1766. Simeon, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 10 Aug.
- 1768. Thomas, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 13 Nov.
- 1770. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 10 June.
- 1772. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 24 Feb.



- 1774. William, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 24 June.
- 1775. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 2 June.
- 1776. Jackey Leete, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 11 Nov.
- 1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 22 June.
- 1781. Ann, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 12 August.

### Marriages.

- 1750. Tempest Sell, of Bassingbourne, and Mary Leete, of this Parish, 24 Sept.
- 1755. John Dix and Tabitha Leete, 10 Nov.
- 1781. Simeon Sell and Edith Leete, 4 June.

### Burials.

- 1731. Sarah, dau. of Simeon and Mary Leete, 9 Apr.
- 1739. Simeon, son of Simeon and Mary Leete.
- 1769. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 2 Aug.
- 1770. Mary, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 2 Aug.
- 1774. John, son of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 18 July.
- 1777. Simeon Leete, gent., 28 Sept.
- 1778. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, 23 Aug.

#### *Simeon Leete, Churchwarden.*

- 1779. Mary Leete, gentlewoman, 10 Mar.
- 1797. William, son of Thomas and Ann Leete, 27 Jan.
- 1797. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon and Elizabeth Leete, of Shingay, 5 Aug.
- 1798. Edith, wife of Mr. Simeon Sell, of Bassingbourne, 12 Aug.
- 1798. Thomas, son of Thomas and Ann Leete, 14 July.
- 1802. Thomas Leete, of Barkway, farmer, 19 Dec.
- 1807. Sarah, dau., of Simeon Leete, 29 Jan.
- 1807. Simeon Leete, Sen<sup>r</sup>, farmer, 28 Oct.

In the Church-yard of Guilden Morden there are a large number of Gravestones to the memory of the Leetes.

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GILDEN MORDEN CHURCH.



THE AVENELS.



## SIMEON LEETE, the ELDER, of GULDEN MORDEN.

It will be found that under the head of Eversden attention has been directed to the circumstance that Simeon Leete, of Little Eversden, removed from his native place, and settled at Guilden Morden. The Parishes of Guilden Morden and Eversden are both in Cambridgeshire.

Simeon Leete was the progenitor of that large and widely connected family which has long been known as the Guilden Morden branch of the family of Leete. The precise date of Simeon's settlement at Guilden Morden remains undetermined, but as Churchwarden of that parish he signed the Bishops' Transcripts of Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, from 1734 until 1774,—a period of forty years. Subjoined is a facsimile of his autograph in 1734.

1734

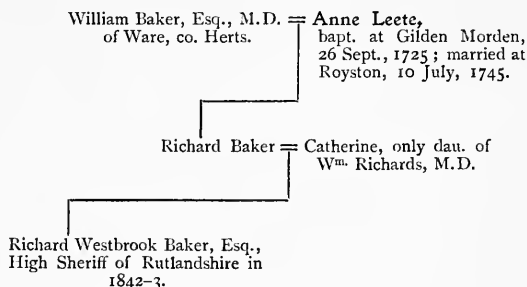
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Simeon Leete". The ink is dark and the handwriting is fluid, characteristic of the 18th century.

Simeon became lord of the Manor of Avenels, and resided in the still existing mansion known by that name.

In the year 1777 Simeon Leete died. We reproduce his Will *in extenso*, as it reveals the name of the testator's wife; the name of his surviving son and that of his wife, with those of their five children; the names of the testator's four daughters, with those of their respective husbands; and names of the testator's fifteen other grandchildren.

To each of his twenty grandchildren Simeon left a hundred pounds.

Ann, the eldest daughter of Simeon Leete was married at Royston, on the 10th of July, 1745, to William Baker, of Ware. They had three children, namely, Ann, wife of Robert Jermyn, of Royston, and William and Richard Baker.

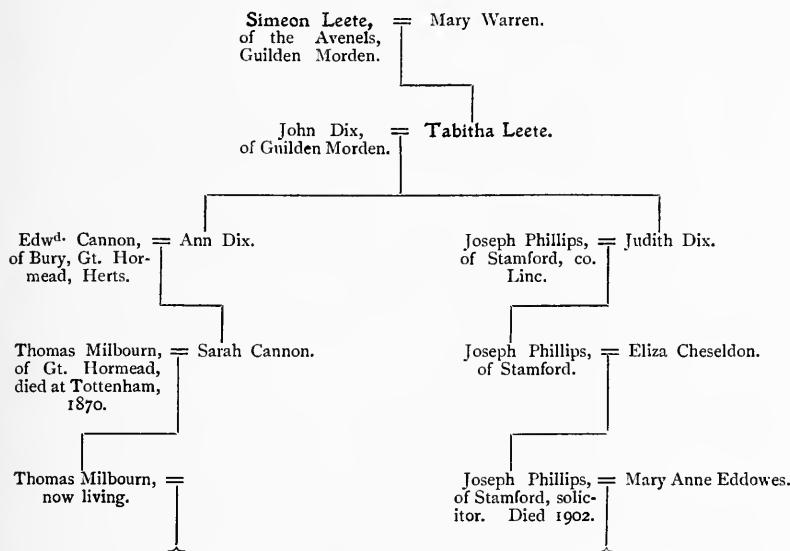


See Burke's *Landed Gentry*.

Mary, the second daughter of the testator, married Tempest Sell, of Bassingbourn, by whom she had four children:—Simeon, Mary, Elizabeth, and Hetty Sell. The Sells are an old Hertfordshire family, branches of it being settled at Rushden and Therfield in the 16th century; they also lived at Baldock, Ashwell, and Bygrave, co. Herts; and some migrated into Cambridgeshire, especially to Bassingbourn.

Tabitha, third surviving daughter of Simeon Leete married John Dix, of Guilden Morden, by whom she had seven children:—Simeon, Mary, John, Ann, Judith, Elizabeth, and Tabitha. Judith, daughter of John Dix and Tabitha his wife, was married on 3rd Aug., 1789, at Guilden Morden, to Joseph Phillips, of Stamford, co. Lincoln. The late Mr. Joseph Phillips, of Stamford, was their grandson. He evinced a deep interest in researches relating to his family; and collected all the materials for a comprehensive Chart of the Phillips' Family. He died in 1902. Mr. Thomas Milbourn, a distinguished antiquary, who, for some years was

Hon. Sec. of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, is also a descendant, on the maternal side, of the first Simeon Leete of Guilden Morden. He courteously placed at our disposal a Chart shewing his descent, as in the annexed sketch pedigree.



The following is the

**Will** of SIMEON LEETE THE ELDER of GILDEN MORDEN,  
Gentleman. A.D. 1778.

THIS IS THE LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT of me **Simeon Leete** the Elder of Gilden Morden in the County of Cambridge Gentleman First I Give and Devise unto my **Son Simeon Leete** All my Freehold and Copyhold Messuages Lands Tenements and Hereditaments situate and being in Gilden Morden Steeple Morden and Kingston in the County of Cambridge or elsewhere with their Appurtenances To hold unto my said **Son Simeon Leete** and to his Heirs and Assigns for ever Also I give and bequeath unto **Ann Jermyn** Wife of Robert

Jermyn of Royston **William Baker** and **Richard Baker** the **Three Children** of my **Daughter Ann** the Wife of Mr. William Baker the Sum of One Hundred Pounds apiece Also I Give and Bequeath unto **Simeon Mary Elizabeth** and **Hetty Sell** the **four Children** of my **Daughter Mary** the Widow of Tempest Sell deceased the Sum of One Hundred pounds apiece Also I Give and Bequeath unto **Simeon Mary John Ann Judith Elizabeth** and **Tabitha** the **Seven Children** of my **Daughter Tabitha** the Wife of John Dix the Sum of One Hundred Pounds apiece Also I Give and Bequeath unto **Judith** the **Daughter** of my **Daughter Judith** the Wife of Edward Worboys the Sum of One Hundred Pounds Also I give and bequeath unto **Edith Simeon Thomas Mary** and **William** the **five Children** of my said **Son Simeon Leete** the Sum of One Hundred Pounds apiece which several Legacys herein before given to my several Grandchildren I direct to be paid by my Executors hereinafter named within One Year after my decease. . . . Also I Give and Bequeath unto my said Son in Law **William Baker** my **Daughter Mary Sell** my Sons in Law **John Dix** **Edward Worboys** and **John Lawrence** the sum of Twenty Pounds apiece to be paid to them respectively within One Year of my decease And All the rest of my Ready Money or Moneys out on any Securitys I give and Bequeath to my Loving **Wife Mary Leete** as also all the Furniture and Household Effects now being in my Bedroom and Closets thereunto adjoining And all the rest of my Household Goods and personal Estate I give unto my said **son Simeon Leete**. And Lastly I appoint the said **Mary my Wife** and my said **Son Simeon** Joint Executors of this my Last Will and Testament hereby revoking all Wills by me at any time heretofore made and I declare this only to be My Last Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this Fifth day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy Six—**Simeon Leete Sener** (+)

Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said **Simeon Leete** the Elder the Testator as and for his Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who at his request in his presence and in the presence of each other have Set our Names as Witnesses hereunto **George Fitzjohn**, **William Clark**, **W<sup>m</sup> Nash**.

Proved on the Oath of **Simeon Leete** one of the Executors, etc. 2<sup>d</sup> December 1778.  
(*Peterborough.*)

**Will** of MARY LEETE, late of GULDEN MORDEN, Widow. A.D. 1780.

This is the Last Will and Testament of me **Mary Leete** of Gilden Morden in the County of Cambridge Widow First I Give to each of my **Three Daughters Ann Baker Mary Sell and Tabitha Dix** the Sum of Twenty Pounds a piece of Lawfull Money of Great Britain exclusive of what their Father Gave them Also I Give and Bequeath unto each of my **Two Daughters Elizabeth Lawrence and Judith Worboys** the Sum of One Hundred Pounds apiece of like Money exclusive of what their Father gave them All which Legacys I direct to be paid by my Executor hereinafter named within Three Months after my decease unless I or my **Son Simeon** shall have sooner paid the same Sums of Money to them Also I give to my **Grandaughter Peggy Worboys** the Sum of One Hundred pounds of like Money to be paid to her Father or Mother for her use within One Year after my decease unless I or my said Son Simeon shall before my Death have paid them the said Sum for the Benefit of my said Grandaughter and in case my said Grandaur. Peggy shall dye under Age I give the said One Hundred Pounds to her Father and Mother or such of them as shall be then living And all the rest and residue of my Goods Cattle Chattels and Personal Estate And also all my Real Estate whatsoever I Give and Bequeath to my said **Son Simeon Leete** and to his Heirs Executors Administrators and Assigns for ever And I appoint my said Son Sole Executor of this my Last Will In Witness whereof I have hereunto Set my Hand and Seal this Twenty Sixth day of March in the yeare of our Lord 1778 Mary Leete (+) Signed Sealed Published and Declared by the said **Mary Leete** the Testatrix as and for her Last Will and Testament in the presence of us who have Set our Names as Witnesses William Clark John Clark W<sup>m</sup>. Nash.

*Proved on the Oath of Simeon Leete the Sole Executor, etc.—7<sup>th</sup> April 1780. (Peterborough.)*

[This Mary Leete was the daughter of William Warren, of Guilden Morden. By her marriage with Simeon Leete the Elder, whose Will has just been given, she became the direct ancestress of that great offshoot of the Leete Family known as the Guilden Morden branch. She was buried at Guilden Morden on March 10th, 1779.



In her Will she mentions her son Simeon; and her five daughters, namely, Ann Baker, Mary Sell, Tabitha Dix, Elizabeth Lawrence, and Judith Worboys; and, also, her granddaughter Peggy Worboys; to all of whom she left legacies.]

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ABSTRACT OF WILL OF SIMEON LEETE, THE ELDER, OF  
GUILDEN MORDEN, GENTLEMAN. A.D. 1807.

*Dated 17 Oct. 1807. Proved 10 Nov. 1807. Prerog. Court of Canterbury.  
Somerset House.*

To wife **Elizabeth** Leete.

To eldest son **Simeon** Estate at Guilden Morden.

To son **Jackey** Leete &c. Kingston.

To daughter **Elizabeth** the wife of Edward Fossey.

To daughter **Ann** the wife of Edward Prime.

To daughter **Mary** the wife of — Williams.

Sons, Simeon and Jackey Leete, Executors.

[Simeon Leete, of whose Will the above is an Abstract, was the only surviving son of the first Simeon Leete of Guilden Morden; whom he succeeded at "The Avenels." He married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Fossey, of Bygrave, and Wallington, co. Herts.; 15 November, 1763.

The Family of Fossey were settled in Bedfordshire at the end of the 15th century. Members of it still own estates at Astwick, co. Beds., and Kensworth, co. Herts.

The Testator leaves to Simeon, his eldest son, his estate at Guilden Morden; and to Jackey Leete, his other surviving son, the property at Kingston. He also mentions in his Will his three daughters, namely:—Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Fossey, of Wallington, Herts.; Ann, wife of Edward Prime; and Mary, the wife of Herbert John Williams, of Bassingbourn, Cambs.]

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## WILL OF THOMAS LEETE, OF BARKWAY.

In the County of Hertford, Yeoman. A.D. 1803.

*Dated 2 Dec. 1802. Proved at Chelmsford, June 1, and Adm. granted June 14, 1803.*

Mentions **Simeon Leete** his 'honoured father,' whom he calls the *Elder*; also **Simeon Leete**, the *Younger*, his brother; and appoints them joint Trustees and Executors of his Will. Refers to his 'present wife,' and to his children, without naming either the one, or the other.

[Thomas Leete was a grandson of the first Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden; in whose Will he is named among the five children of his son Simeon. He predeceased both his father and brother.]

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Abstract:—Will of Simeon Leete of Guilden Morden, Gentleman. A.D. 1823.

*Dated 22 March, 1823: Proved 2 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1824, P.C.C., Somerset House.*

To wife **Elizabeth Leete**.

Mentions his Mansion house in which he resides ("The Avenels").

Mentions **Mrs. Kidman** his daughter.

To daughter **Mary** wife of Mr. H. F. Smyth.

To daughter **Elizabeth** wife of Mr. Deeker.

To son **Simeon Leete** "The Avenells Estate," &c.

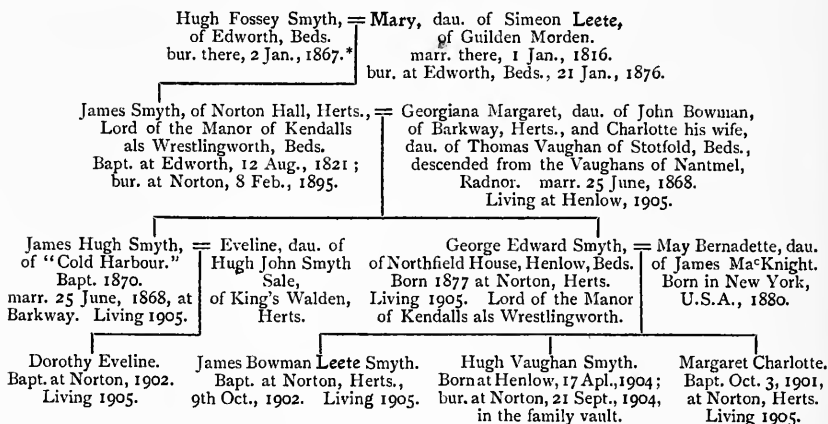
To son **Tempest Sell Leete**, "The Cold Harbour Estate."

Two Sons, Simeon & Tempest Sell Leete, Executors.

[This Simeon Leete was third in descent of the same name, lord of the Manor of Avenels, at Guilden Morden. He married Elizabeth Sell of Shingay, co. Cambs., at Wendy, on the 11th of January, 1790.

To his son Simeon, fourth in descent from Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden, the testator leaves "The Avenels Estate," etc.; and, to his son, Tempest Sell Leete, "The Cold Harbour Estate."

Mary, the daughter of the third Simeon Leete of Guilden Morden, was married on the 1st of January, 1816, to Hugh Fossey Smyth, of Edworth, co. Beds. Her portrait is preserved at "Cold Harbour," in the parish of Guilden Morden, co. Cambs., formerly a home of the Leetes, and now the residence of her grandson, James Hugh Smyth. Another grandson is George Edward Smyth, of Henlow, co. Beds., whose son and heir bears the name of James Bowman Leete Smyth; the present writer being one of his godfathers.]



### Will of ANN LEETE. A.D. 1825.

1825.—Ann Leete, of Gilden Morden: single. Mentions her mother, the wife of William Carrington, & her sisters, Martha wife of George Watts, & Sarah wife of William Yarrow; also mentions her grandmother M<sup>rs</sup> Elizabeth Leete of Gilden Morden. Leaves a legacy to Mary wife of Edward Warboys, with whom she lived. (*Peterborough.*)

\* NOTE.—An elaborate pedigree of the Family of Smyth of counties Bucks., Beds., and Herts., showing their descent from the 16th century, is preserved at Herald's College, London. (*Norfolk XX, folio 126.*)

ARMS OF THE SMYTH FAMILY.—Azure, three horseshoes fessways or, between three horses' heads erased argent. *Crest*—On a wreath of the colours, a horse's head argent, erased azure, within a horseshoe or. *Motto*—"Ferrum equitis salus."

## Marriage Licenses,

*Relating to the Eversden Branch of the Family of Leete.*

(From the Bishop's Registry at Ely.)

Setchell & Leet. { 31 Martij A° Dni 1717. Concessa fuit Linā M<sup>r</sup> Gulielmo  
Setchell de Eversden p<sup>vā</sup> Coelibi & **Eliza Leet** de Ea<sup>d</sup> Solute, etc.

*Translation.*—31 March, 1717. A Marriage License was granted to William Setchell of Eversden parva, Bachelor & **Eliza Leet** of the same place Spinster, etc.

[Eliza or Elizabeth Leet of the above extract was the daughter of Simeon Leet, of Little Eversden, and Elizabeth (Galer) his wife; and sister of Simeon Leete, first of the name who settled at Guilden Morden. She was married to William Setchell, by whom she had a daughter, also named Elizabeth. Mother and daughter are described by old Simeon Leete in his will as "My daughter Elizabeth Setchell," and "my granddaughter Elizabeth Setchell."]

Forman & Leet. { 3 Feb: 1725-6. Con<sup>a</sup> fuit Li<sup>c</sup>is Jo<sup>h</sup>i Foreman de Cumberton in  
Com<sup>it</sup> Cantabr Celibi et **Rebecca Leet** de Eversden p<sup>vā</sup> in Com<sup>it</sup> pred<sup>o</sup>  
Solutæ ad Soleminizand<sup>o</sup> M<sup>r</sup> in Sacello Reginal<sup>i</sup> Coll<sup>i</sup> infra vill et  
Universitat Cantabr<sup>i</sup> ped<sup>o</sup>.

*Translation.*—3 Feb: 1725-6. License was granted to John Forman of Comberton in the County of Cambridge Bachelor and **Rebecca Leet** of Eversden parva in the County aforesaid, widow, for the Solemnization of Marriage in the Chapel of Queens' College within the Town and University of Cambridge, before said.

Ellis & Leet. { 15<sup>o</sup> Sept<sup>ris</sup> 1727. Concessa fuit Li<sup>c</sup> Mriona<sup>i</sup> Thomæ Ellis de  
Orwell in Com<sup>it</sup> Cantab Yeom<sup>i</sup> et **Annæ Leet** de Eversden p<sup>vā</sup> in  
Com<sup>it</sup> pred<sup>o</sup> Soluta Solemnizand<sup>o</sup> M<sup>r</sup> in Eccl<sup>a</sup> po<sup>l</sup>ci Sci Bend<sup>i</sup>ci vel  
in Sacello Coll<sup>i</sup> Reginae infra Universitat<sup>e</sup> Cantabr<sup>i</sup>.

*Translation.*—15 Sept. 1727. A Marriage License was granted to Thomas Ellis of Orwell in the County of Cambridge, Yeoman, and to **Ann Leet**

of Eversden parva in the County aforesaid, Spinster, for the Solemnization of Marriage in the parish Church of St. Benedict or in the Chapel of Queens' College, under the University of Cambridge.

[This Marriage License is the first intimation of a connection between the families of Leete, of Eversden, and Ellis, of Orwell.]

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*Marriage Bond*: dated 1732. Between **John Leet** of Eversden parva. in com. Cantabr., & **Eliz**: Ellis of Eversden, aforesaid, Singlewoman, Aged 21 yrs & upwards. At Little Eversden, afsd. or Queen's Coll. Chapp! Thomas Ellis of Kingston, yeoman, a party to the bond.

[John Leet of Little Eversden was brother to the first Simeon Leete who settled at Guilden Morden; and father to Robert Leete, of Royston. He was executor to the will of his father Simeon, of Little Eversden, who died in 1723.]

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Leet & Papworth.	{	June 6, 1750. A Marriage Licence was granted to <b>Simeon Leet</b> of y <sup>e</sup> parish of Little Eversden in y <sup>e</sup> County of Camb <sup>r</sup> (Farmer & Lime burner) Batchelor, & Mary Papworth of y <sup>e</sup> parish of Gt. Eversden in y <sup>e</sup> s <sup>d</sup> County of Camb <sup>r</sup> Spinster, to be Solemnized in y <sup>e</sup> parish Church of Duxford St. Peters in y <sup>e</sup> s <sup>d</sup> County of Camb <sup>r</sup> ; y <sup>e</sup> s <sup>d</sup> Simeon Leet being first Sworn, &c.
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[This Simeon Leete was the brother of Robert Leete of Royston.]

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Lawrence & Leat.	{	April 19. 1753. A Marriage Licence was granted to John Lawrence of Guilden Morden in the County of Cambridge Batchelor & <b>Elizabeth Leat</b> of same place Spinster, to be solemnized in the Parish Church of Melbourne in the County of Cambridge, etc.
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[The above Elizabeth Leat was the daughter of the first Simeon Leete of Guilden Morden. As "Elizabeth Lawrence" she is named in her mother's Will. John Lawrence, husband of this Elizabeth, is described in the Will of Simeon Leete as his "son-in-law."]

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Dix  
 &  
 Leete.

{ November 9. 1755. A Marriage Licence was granted to John  
 Dix of the parish of Guilden Morden in the County of Cambridge  
 Batchelor & **Tabitha Leete** of the same place Spinster, to be  
 Solemnized in the parish Church of Guilden Morden aforesaid the  
 said John Dix being first sworn, etc.

[Tabitha Leete was also a daughter of the first Simeon Leete of the Avenels, Guilden Morden, and sister of the above-named Elizabeth. Tabitha and her husband, John Dix, with their seven children, are all named by her father in his Will. Tabitha Dix is also mentioned in the Will of her mother.]

Butler  
 &  
 Leete.

{ June 19. 1758. A Marriage Licence was granted to John Butler  
 of the parish of Barton in the County of Cambridge (Butcher)  
 Batchelor & **Ann Leete** of the parish of Little Eversden in said  
 County of Cambridge Spinster to be solemnized in the parish Church  
 of Little Eversden aforesaid, etc.

[This Ann Leete, and Robert Leete, who married Lydia Hawks, were brother and sister.]

Leete  
 &  
 Hawks.

{ Dec<sup>r</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1761. A Marriage Licence was granted to **Rob<sup>t</sup> Leete**  
 of the parish of Little Eversden in the County of Camb<sup>r</sup> Yeoman  
 and Lydia Hawks of the parish of Wimple in the said County of  
 Camb<sup>r</sup> Spinster, to be solemnized in the parish Church of Wimple  
 aforesaid, the said Robert Leete being first sworn, etc.

[This License refers to the marriage of that Robert Leete and his wife Lydia who resided at the Quarry House and Farm, Little Eversden, to whom the inscription printed on page 87 relates :— father and mother of Robert Leete, the eminent musician ; Stephen Leete, of the Bank of England ; and Lydia Leete, of Bridge Street, Westminster.]

Sell                    { 30<sup>th</sup> May 1781. A Marriage Licence was granted to Simeon Sell  
 &                        { of the Parish of Basinbourn in the County of Cambridge Batchelor  
 Leete.                { & **Edith Leete** of the Parish of Guilden Morden in the said County  
                           { Spinster (minor) to be solemnized in the Parish Church of Gilden  
                           { Morden aforesaid, etc.

[Edith Leete was granddaughter of the first Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden, and daughter of the second Simeon Leete of the same place. She is named in her grandfather's Will.]

Williams            { 18<sup>th</sup> June 1788. A Marriage License was granted to Herbert  
 &                        { John Williams of Bassingbourne in the County of Cambridge  
 Leete.                { Batchelor and **Mary Leete** of the Parish of Guilden Morden in the  
                           { said County Spinster (minor) to be solemnized in the Parish  
                           { Church of ——— aforesaid, etc.

[Mary Leet, who became the wife of Herbert John Williams, of Bassingbourne, was a daughter of Simeon Leete, second of the name who resided at "The Avenels," Guilden Morden. Her father mentions her in his Will.]

Leete                { 9<sup>th</sup> January 1790. A Marriage Licence was granted to **Simeon**  
 &                        { **Leete** of the Parish of Wendy cum Shingay in the County of Cam-  
 Sell.                 { bridge Batchelor and Elizabeth Sell of the same parish Spinster  
                           { to be Solemnized in the Parish Church of Wendy cum Shingay  
                           { aforesaid, etc.

[This Simeon Leete was third in descent of that name who became lord of the Manor of Avenels at Guilden Morden.]

Fossey              { January 19. 1798. A Marriage License was granted to Edward  
 &                        { Fossey of the Parish of Wallington in the County of Hertford  
 Leete.                { Batchelor and **Elizabeth Leete** of the Parish of Guilden Morden  
                           { in the said County of Hertford, Spinster, minor, to be solemnized  
                           { in the Parish Church of Guilden Morden aforesaid, etc.

[Elizabeth Leete, who became the wife of Edward Fossey, of Wallington, was a daughter of Simeon Leete, second of that name, lord of the Manor of "Avenels." She is named in her father's Will.]

---

Prime & Leete.	{	December 30 <sup>th</sup> 1801. A Marriage License was granted to Edward Prime of the Parish of Graveley in the County of Hertford, Batchelor & <b>Ann Leete</b> of the Parish of Guilden Morden, Co. Camb. Spinster (to be Solemnized at Guilden Morden), etc.
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[Ann Leete was likewise a daughter of Simeon Leete, second of the name at Guilden Morden, and sister of the last-named Elizabeth; being also mentioned in the Will of her father.]

---

Leete & Strickland.	{	May 28. 1814. A Marriage License was granted to <b>Simeon Leete</b> the Younger of the Parish of Guilden Morden in the County of Cambridge Bachelor and Ann Strickland of the same parish Spinster to be solemnized (at Guilden Morden) etc.
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[This Simeon Leete was fourth in succession of the same name, lord of the Manor of Avenels, Guilden Morden. He was thrice married; the above Ann, daughter of Montford Strickland, of Morden Hall, being his first wife.]

---

Leete & Dickason.	{	September 16. 1815. A Marriage License was granted to <b>Tempest Leete</b> of the Parish of Guilden Morden in the County of Cambridge Bachelor and Hannah Dickason of the Parish of Abington in the Clay in the said County of Cambridge Spinster, to be solemnized (at Abington) etc.
-------------------------	---	--

[Tempest Leete was the son of the third Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden, from whom he inherited the Cold Harbour estate. He died in 1861. Mr. F. N. Fordham, Banker, of Royston, who lately died in the 95th year of his age, has often spoken to the writer of his friendship in early years with Tempest Leete. Both



young men were fond of ancient literature, and used to have frequent discussions as to the correct interpretation of passages from Greek authors.]

---

Leete & Covington.	{	Octr. 14. 1815. A Marriage License was granted to <b>Jackey Leete</b> of the Parish of Shengay in the County of Cambridge and Keziah Covington of the same Parish, Spinster, to be solemnized (at Shengay).
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[This Jackey Leete was a son of the second Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden, who, by Will, left to Jackey his estate at Kingston, Cambs. The marriage between Jackey Leete and Keziah Covinton, or Covington, was celebrated at Shengay, Cambs., on the 16th of Oct., 1815.]

---

Smyth & Leete.	{	December 26: 1815. A Marriage License was granted to Hugh Fossey Smyth of the Parish of Edworth in the County of Bedford Bachelor and <b>Mary Leete</b> of the Parish of Guilden Morden in the County of Cambridge, Spinster (Minor) to be solemnized in the Parish Church of Guilden Morden aforesaid, the said Hugh Fossey Smyth being first sworn, etc.
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[The foregoing License relates to the marriage of Hugh Fossey Smyth, of Edworth, co. Beds., to Mary, daughter of Simeon Leete, third of that name, lord of the Manor of Avenels, Guilden Morden; which was solemnized on January 1st, 1816.]

---

Decker & Leete.	{	May 2. 1818. A Marriage License was granted to Joseph Decker of the Parish of Tadlow in the County of Cambridge Bachelor & <b>Elizabeth Leete</b> of Guilden Morden Spinster (Minor) to be solemnized at Guilden Morden, etc.
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[The above-named Elizabeth was a daughter of the third Simeon Leete, of "The Avenels."]

Leete & Line. { Oct. 18. 1828. A Marriage License was granted to **Simeon Leete** of Guilden Morden in the Co. of Camb. Widower, & Martha Line of the same Parish Spinster, to be solemnized (at Guilden Morden) etc.

[Simeon Leete, named in the License, was fourth in succession of the same name at "The Avenels." The above Martha Line, or Lyon, was his third wife.]

---

Dickason & Leete. { January 24: 1829. A Marriage License was granted to Thomas Dickason of Great Abington in the County of Cambridge, Bachelor, and **Eliza Leete** of Wendy cum Shingay in the said County of Cambridge, Spinster (Minor) to be solemnized (at Wendy, etc.).

---

Jackson & Leet. { 30 Oct. 1838. A Marriage License was granted to George Jackson of Wendy, Co. Camb. Bachelor & **Hannah Leet** of Guilden Morden, Co. Camb. Spinster (Minor) to be solemnized (at Guilden Morden) etc.

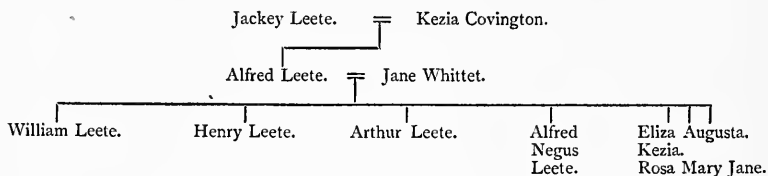
[Hannah Leet was a daughter of Tempest Leete, of Cold Harbour Farm, Guilden Morden; and granddaughter of the third Simeon Leete, of "The Avenels."]

---

Leete & Armstrong. { 11<sup>th</sup> May 1846. A Marriage License was granted to **Tempest Leete** of Riseley Co Bedford, Bachelor, & Hannah Sarah Armstrong of the Parish of St. Mary the Great, Cambridge, Spinster, to be solemnized in the Ch. of St. Mary the Great, etc.

[This Tempest Leete was a son of the fourth Simeon Leete, of Guilden Morden, by his second wife, Mary Ashcroft.]

Leete & Whittet. { 13 May 1848. A Marriage License was granted to **Alfred Leete** of the Parish of Kingston, Co. Camb., Bachelor, & Jane Whittet of Comberton, Cambs. Spinster, to be solemnized at Comberton, etc.



Leete & Dickason. { 12 Nov. 1850. A Marriage License was granted to **John Leete** of the Parish of Guilden Morden in the County of Cambridge, Bachelor, & Einma Dickason of the same place, Spinster, to be solemnized at Guilden Morden, etc.

[John Leete, mentioned above, was one of the sons of Tempest Leete, of the Cold Harbour Farm, Guilden Morden, and Hannah Dickason, his first wife.]

## ORWELL, CAMBS.

### *Bishop's Transcripts.*

#### **Baptisms.**

- A.D.
- 1753. Ann, dau. of Simeon & Mary Leet, 29 Apr.
  - 1755. John, son of John & Elizabeth Leete, 3 Nov.
  - 1755. Robert, son of Simeon & Mary Leet, 14 Sep.
  - 1757. Simeon, son of John & Elizabeth Leet, 9 Jan.
  - 1760. Elizabeth, dau. of John & Elizabeth Leet, 15 Apr.
  - 1774. Sarah, dau. of John & Elizabeth Leet, 25 Dec.
  - 1783. Sarah, dau. of John & Alice Leete, 2 March.
  - 1785. John, son of John & Alice Leete, 24 July.

**Marriages.**

A.D.

1757. Simeon Leet & Hannah Course, 24 July.  
 1765. John Peter & Mary Leet, 16 Oct.  
 1777. James Leete & Letitia Lunnis, 19 June.  
 1777. John Leete & Alice Smith, 15 Oct.  
 1786. George Collis & Elizabeth Leete, 13 Apr.

**Burials.**

1756. Robert Leete, an infant.  
 1758. Hannah, dau. of Simeon & Hannah Leet, 18 May.  
 1760. Simeon, son of Simeon & Hannah Leet, 13 July.  
 1785. John, son of John & Alice Leet, 5 Aug.  
 1786. Elizabeth Leete, widow, 15 Apr.  
 1820. Elizabeth Leete, of Orwell, aged 84, 10 July.

[John Leete, brother to the first Simeon Leete of Guilden Morden, was married in 1732 to Elizabeth Ellis of Eversden. They removed to Orwell, where they had three sons, John, Simeon, and Robert. The last named was the first Leete who settled in Royston, and became the great-grandfather of Joseph Leete of South Norwood.]

**COMBERTON, CAMBS.***Bishop's Transcripts.***Baptisms.**

A.D.

1736. Duckett, son of Duckett & Eleanor Leete, his wife, 14 Oct.  
 1737. Eleanor, dau. of Duckett & Eleanor Leete, 23 April.  
 1739. Mary, dau. of Duckett Leet & Ann Jeaps, 27 Jan.

**Burial.**

1737. Eleanor, dau. of Duckett Leete & Eleanor, his wife, 31 Jan.

[Duckett Leete, father of the above-named children, was the grandson of Robert Leete of Little Eversden, who died in 1709.]

## BASSINGBOURN, CAMBS.

*Parish Register.***Baptisms.**

- A.D.  
 1751. Mary y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Tempest & Mary Sell was baptized August y<sup>e</sup> 5.  
 1753. Simeon : y<sup>e</sup> son of Tempest & Mary Sell, bap<sup>t</sup> Apr<sup>l</sup> 16.  
 1755. Mary, y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Temp<sup>st</sup> & Mary Sell, July y<sup>e</sup> 17.  
 1757. Eliz. y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Temp<sup>st</sup> & Mary Sell, Sep<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 18.  
 1759. Ann daughter of Temp<sup>st</sup> & Mary Sell, Sep<sup>t</sup> 30.  
 1761. Henrietta, daughter of Temp<sup>st</sup> & Mary Sell, June y<sup>e</sup> 5.  
 1783. Edith Fossey, daughter of Sim<sup>n</sup> & Edith Sell, baptized privately, May 11<sup>th</sup>.  
 1785. Simeon Leet, son of Simeon & Edith Sell, March 18<sup>th</sup>.  
 1787. Tempest, son of Simeon & Edith Sell, Aug<sup>t</sup> 20.  
 1791. Elizabeth, daughter of Simeon & Edith Sell, Jan<sup>y</sup> 16.  
 1793. Ephraim, son of Simeon & Edith Sell, 15 April.  
 1795. Charles, son of Simeon & Edith Sell, 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Burials.**

1790. W<sup>m</sup> Baker, son of Simeon & Edith Sell, Jan<sup>y</sup> 2.  
 1795. Charles son of Simeon & Edith Sell, July 29<sup>th</sup>.  
 1798. Edith, wife of Simeon Sell was buried at Great Morden, 12<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup>.  
 1823. Simeon Sell, of Bassingbourn, Jan<sup>y</sup> 4. Age 69.  
 1858. Simeon Leete Sell, of Bassingbourn, April 4<sup>th</sup>, age 7.  
 1859. Edith Fossey Sell, of Bassingbourn, June 14<sup>th</sup>, age 76.  
 1861. Tempest Sell, of Bassingbourn, April 29<sup>th</sup>, age 73.

[The above-mentioned sons and daughters of Tempest and Mary Sell were grandchildren, on the mother's side, of the first Simeon Leete of the "Avenels," Guilden Morden.

The children of Simeon and Edith Sell were grandchildren, on their mother's side, of the second Simeon Leete of the "Avenels"; whose wife's maiden name was Fossey.]

## THERFIELD, CAMBS.

*Bishop's Transcripts.*A.D. **Baptisms.**

1801. John, son of James & Sarah Leet, privately bap. 29 Dec.  
1804. William, son of James & Sarah Leet, privately bap. 17 July.  
1805. William, son of James & Sarah Leet, bap. 25 Aug.  
1808. Kerenhappuch, dau. of James & Sarah Leet, 1 Feb.  
1808. Robert, son of Simeon & Catherine Leet, 25 Dec.  
1809. Reuben, son of James & Sarah Leet, 8 Oct.  
1810. Simeon, son of Simeon & Catherine Leete, 25 Nov.  
1812. Joseph, son of James & Sarah Leete, 24 May.  
1812. Charles, son of Simeon & Catherine Leete, 29 Nov.

**Marriage.**

1721. Samuel Leet & Elizabeth Bangley, 1 May.

**Burials.**

1804. William, infant son of James & Sarah Leete, 31 July.  
1808. Kerenhappuch, dau. of James & Sarah Leete, 3 Oct.  
1811. Simeon, son of Simeon Leete, 17 Dec.  
1812. Sarah Leete, wife of James Leete, 19 Mar.  
1812. Charles Leete, 17 Dec.

## WHADDON, CAMBS.

*Bishop's Transcripts.***Baptisms.**

1757. Honor, dau. of Thomas & Mary Leet, 26 Nov.  
1760. Simeon, son of Thomas & Mary Leet, 14 Dec.  
1764. Flora, dau. of Thomas & Mary Leet, 29 July.  
1781. Elizabeth, dau. of Simeon & Lydia Leet, 9 Jan.  
1782. Lydia, dau. of Samuel & Lydia Leet, 22 Apr.

A.D.

**Marriages.**

1776. Thomas Evans & Elizabeth Leet, 13 Oct.  
 1780. Simeon Leete & Lydia Giffin, 17 Apr.

**Burials.**

1762. Simeon, son of Thomas Leet, 7 Mar.  
 1778. Honor, dau. of Thomas & Mary Leet, 16 Sept.

## WIMPOLE, CAMBS.

*Bishop's Transcript.***Marriage.**

1762. Robert Leete, of Little Eversden, & Lydia Hawkes, of this Parish, 28 Dec.

## BARTON, CAMBS.

*Assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire.*

A.D. 1571-72 (13 Elizabeth)—Thomas Leete, Gent . . . in lands £3.. 6s 8d

[The above-named Thomas Leete was the third son of John Leete of Eversden. He was of the Inner Temple, London, and of Bury St. Edmunds, co. Suffolk. He married Dorothy, the daughter of Richard Warde of Barton, Cambs. *See Visitation of Suffolk.*]

## SHELFORD, MAGNA AND PARVA, CAMBS.

*Assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire.*

A.D.

1522-3 (14-15 Hen. VIII.)

Shelford Mag.—John Lett . . . . . in wages £1.  
 Shelford Pva.—John Leete . . . . . „ „ £1.

## MELBOURNE, CAMBS.

*Assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire.*

A.D.

1558-9 (1 Elizabeth)—**Flower Leete**, Widow. . . . . in lands £1.

[Flower or Flora Leete was the widow of William Leete, eldest son of John Leete of Eversden. *See pages 72-73.*]

*Bishop's Transcripts.***Baptism.**

A.D.

1781. James, son of John &amp; Alice Leet, 18 Mar.

**Marriage.**

1753. John Lawrence &amp; Elizabeth Leete, both of Guilden Morden, 19 Apr.

[The above Elizabeth was daughter of the first Simeon Leete of the Avenels, Guilden Morden. She married this John Lawrence, whom his father-in-law named in his Will.]

A.D. 1581. John Widowes or Wydowes of St. Botolph's, Cambridge, in his Will mentions his brother **Gyles Leete**. *P.C.C.*

[This John Widowes was the husband of Ellyn, daughter of Flower Leete of Kingston. In her Will Flower Leete calls him "my sonne in Law"; leaves him a legacy, and appoints him, conjointly with her son Gyles, her executor. *See p. 75.*]



## ROYSTON, HERTS.

The healthy, old fashioned, town of Royston is situated on the confines of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The place is called Royse's Cross, or Cruce Roys, in old records ; the tradition being that a noble Dame named Roysia piously erected, at the intersection of the main roads of Icknield Street and Ermyn Street, a wayside Cross which stood at this spot for centuries. About the year 1180 Eustice de Merc, having purchased the land adjoining, built thereon a Priory, and a town gradually arose here, at first named Royse's Cross, and Royse's Town, eventually contracted into Royston.

The Canons of the Order of St. Augustine, at Royston, remained in possession of their lands until the Dissolution ; when Henry the Eighth granted the site and demesnes of the Priory, constituting the Manor of Royston, to Robert Chester, of Barkway, Esquire. The Manor of Royston continued in the Chester family until about the year 1760, when it was sold to Thomas Brand, Esquire, of the Hoo, father of Henry Otway Brand, twenty-first Lord Dacre ; from whom it has descended to its present noble owner, Lord Hampden.

James the First, when on his way to take possession of the English Throne, in 1603, was for some days the guest of Robert Chester, whom he afterwards Knighted, at Royston Priory. King James was so delighted with the neighbourhood of Royston that he built here a small Palace, or hunting seat, which for upwards of twenty years was the frequent residence of that Monarch and afterwards occasionally of his son, Charles the First. A portion of this building is still standing in good condition.

In the town, near the Cross, is a curious Cave which was discovered by accident in 1742. The walls are decorated with rude carvings, chiefly of sacred subjects. According to the late Joseph Beldam, F.S.A., who wrote a work upon it, the Cave was formed prior to the Christian era, afterwards it was used as a Roman sepulchre, and about the time of the Crusades, when it received the greater portion of the decorations, it was converted into a Christian Oratory. It remained open till the Reformation, when it was closed up and subsequently forgotten.

Royston Heath is a well-known public resort and recreation ground, covering over 400 acres.

The town gives its name to the Royston Crow, the *Corvus Cornix* of Linnaeus, which visits the neighbourhood about the beginning of winter and leaves in the spring.

The first descendant of John Leete of Eversden to settle in Royston was Robert Leete, who was married here in 1768. He was the seventh in the line of descent from that ancestor. It is from this Robert Leete that the author of the present work is descended.

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In *Pedes Finium*, A.D. 1278—6 Edw. I occurs the entry, **Ra<sup>d</sup>s** (or Radmund) **de Litte** : Cruce Roys, (Royston), Cambs. **Radmund de Letes** was the name of one of the Knights-Crusading brothers mentioned by King John. See pages 12 and 13.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE PARISH REGISTER.

### Marriages.

A.D.

- 1768—"Robert Leet of this parish, Batchelor, and Elizabeth Sell of this parish, Spinster, married in this Church by Banns, this 28th day of April."
- 1814—"Charles Porter Clamp of the parish of Little St. Mary's, Cambridge, Bachelor, & Sophia Elizabeth Leete of this Parish, Spinster, marr<sup>d</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> July 1814." (In the presence of Martha Leete & Zachariah Leet.)

A.D.

1825—"Joseph Leete, of this Parish, Bachelor, & Sarah Bennett of this parish, Spinster, were married in this Church by Banns, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of Sept<sup>r</sup> 1825."

### Burials.

- 1784—"Lydia Leete (an Infant) Buried June 28<sup>th</sup>."  
 1788—"Elizabeth, Dau<sup>r</sup> of Robert Leete, Bur<sup>d</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> December."  
 1789—"Josiah Leete (an Infant) Bur<sup>d</sup> June 1<sup>st</sup>."  
 1806—"Robert Leete (buried) Oct<sup>r</sup> 22."  
 1819—"Simeon Leete, Royston, (bur<sup>d</sup>) May 26<sup>th</sup>; (age) 50 years."  
 1838—"Sarah Leete, Royston, (bur<sup>d</sup>) May 23<sup>rd</sup>; (age) 32 years."  
 1848—"Sophia Leete, Royston, (bur<sup>d</sup>) October 30; (age) 77 years."  
 1868—"Joseph Leete, Royston, (bur<sup>d</sup>) March 2<sup>d</sup>; (age) 71 years."

On a memorial stone erected in the N.W. corner of Royston Churchyard appears this Inscription :—

Sacred  
 to the Memory of  
 JOSEPH LEETE,  
 who departed this life  
 on the 26<sup>th</sup> of February 1868,  
 in the 72<sup>nd</sup> year of his age.

Also of  
 SARAH his wife  
 who died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1838  
 aged 33 years.

In this Church Yard were likewise  
 buried, the Grandfather, Father,  
 and Mother of the above  
 Joseph Leete, as follows.

ROBERT LEETE  
 Buried Oct<sup>r</sup> 22<sup>d</sup>, 1806, aged 60 years,  
 SIMEON LEETE,  
 Buried May 26<sup>th</sup> 1819, aged 50 years.  
 SOPHIA, his wife,  
 Buried Oct<sup>r</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1848, aged 77 years.

*"Wait on the Lord; be of good courage,  
 and he shall strengthen thine heart,  
 wait, I say on the Lord."*

*Psalms xxvii, 14.*



ROYSTON CHURCH.



## REGISTER OF BAPTISMS ROYSTON OLD MEETING,

now preserved at Somerset House, London.

## Extracts from :—

A.D.

- “ 1770. March 11.—Simeon & Sarah Leet son & Daughter of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Eliz : ”  
 “ 1771. Sep. 26.—James Leet son of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Elizabeth.”  
 “ 1773. June 3.—John Leet son of Robert & Elizabeth.”  
 “ 1774. Dec : 14.—Elizabeth Leet Daughter of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Eliz : ”  
 “ 1776. Sep : 25.—Samuel Leet son of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Elizabeth.”  
 “ 1778. Jan : 20.—James Leet son of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Elizabeth.”  
 “ 1780. March 1.—Mary Leet, D<sup>sr</sup> of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Elizabeth.”  
 “ 1781. May 10.—Martha Leete, Daughter of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Elizabeth.”  
 “ 1783. Nov. 2.—Zechariah son of Rob<sup>t</sup> & Eliz. Leete, (aged 15 mon.) ”  
 “ 1785. May 8.—Lydia dau. of Robert & Elizab Leet. (born March 20. 85.) ”
- 

## OLD POLL BOOKS.

In Copies of the Polls for Knights of the Shire for the Counties of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire we find the following entries :—

A.D.

1754. Simeon Leet : Ashwell : Occupier.  
 1761. Simeon Leet : do. do.  
 1780. Simeon Leete : Guilden Morden : Freeholder.  
 1780. Peter de Leat : Gamlingay : Freeholder.  
 1784. William Leet : Rushden : Freeholder.  
 1796. Robert Leet : Royston : Freeholder.  
 1802. Robert Lette : Royston : Freeholder.  
 1802. James Leete : Therfield : Occupier.  
 1802. Thomas Leete : Barkway : Freeholder.

## JOSEPH LEETE,

OF EVERSDEN, SOUTH NORWOOD PARK, CO. SURREY,

THE WARREN, ROYSTON, CO. HERTS,

AND

ST. MARY-AT-HILL, LONDON, E.C.

He is the third, and only surviving son, of the late Joseph Leete, of The Warren, Royston; who was the son of Simeon, and grandson of Robert Leete.

Mr. Leete's father was a man of high character; and was held in the greatest esteem by his fellow-townsmen. His children were devotedly attached to him, and cherish his memory for the noble example he set them of a well-spent life. He was married on the 26th September, 1825, to Sarah, daughter of James Bennett of Ashwell, and had issue three sons and two daughters. He died on February 26th, 1868. (*See the large "Eversden Chart."*)

Alfred, the eldest brother of Mr. Joseph Leete, of South Norwood, died in 1889. His second brother Francis died on the 31st July, 1904, in the 77th year of his age. He had for a number of years taken a prominent part in all matters connected with the local government and religious life of Wembley, Middlesex, and its neighbourhood. His sisters, Elizabeth and Martha, are both living (1905) at The Warren, Royston.

In 1881 the French Government conferred upon Mr. Joseph Leete the distinction of Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

He is the author of "The Family of Leete," printed in 1881, for private circulation; and of the present work.

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ALFRED LEETE.

ELIZABETH.

THE LATE MR. JOSEPH LEETE.

FRANCIS LEETE.

JOSEPH LEETE.

MARTHA.







ARTHUR LEETE.

MRS. S. E. BROWN, née LEETE.

MRS. ARTHUR LEETE.

THE LATE MRS. JOSEPH LEETE.

MR. JOSEPH LEETE.

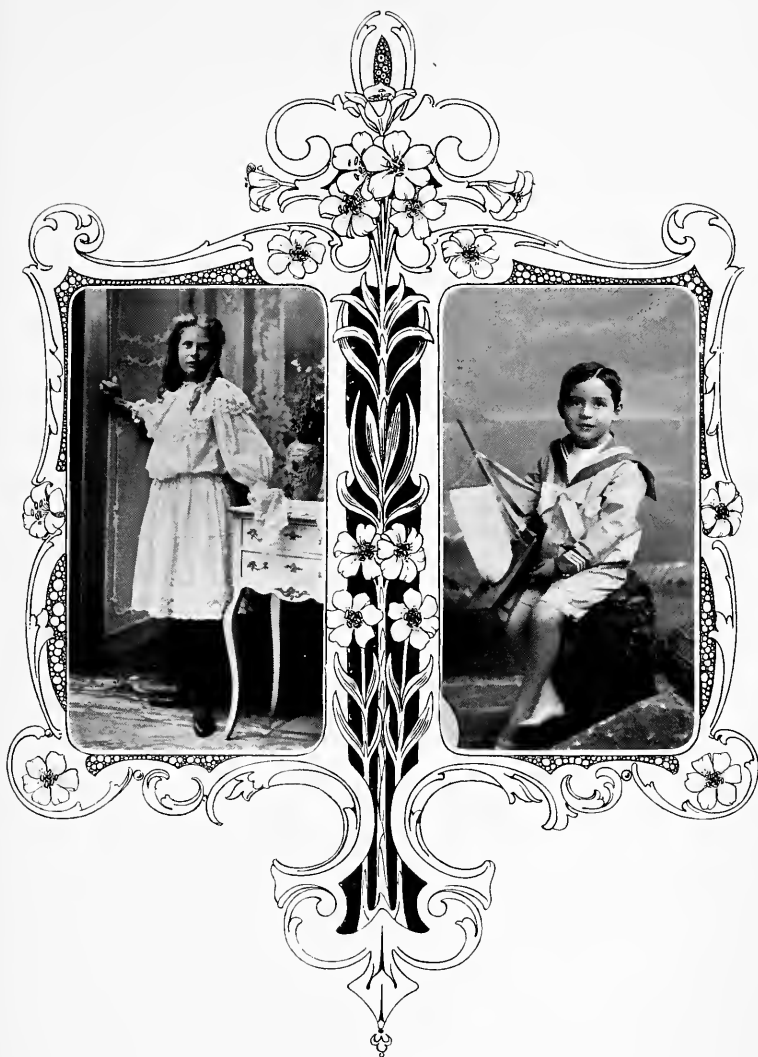
WARREN LEETE.

MRS. WARREN LEETE.

NORMAN LEETE.

MRS. NORMAN LEETE.



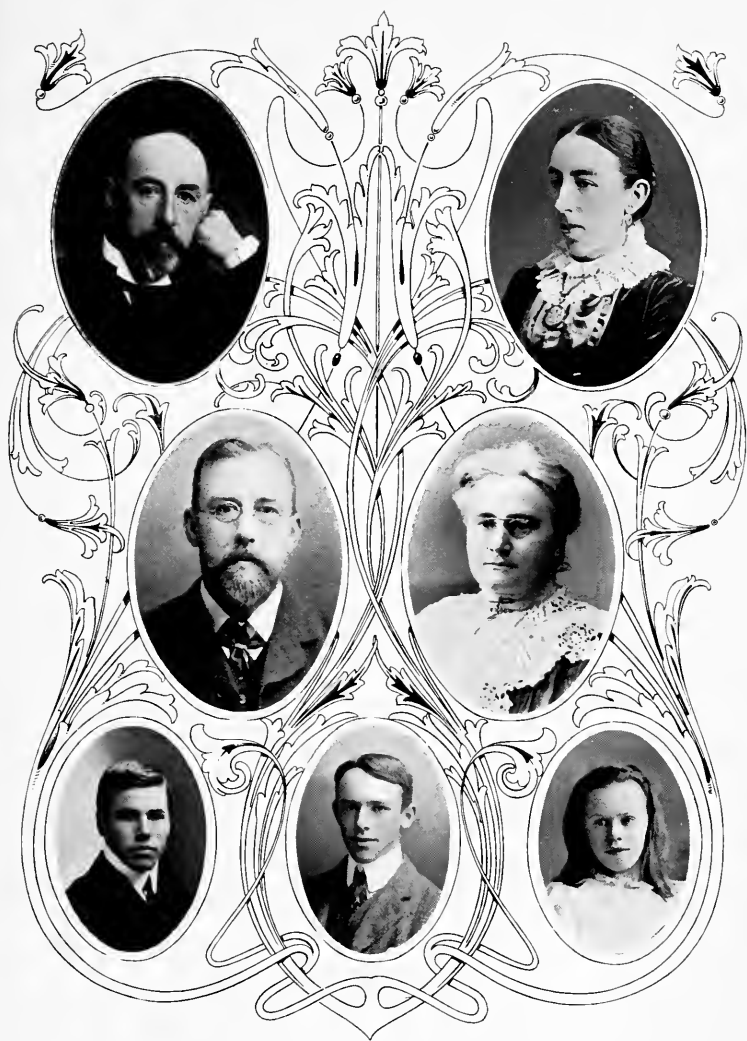


Mr. Joseph Leete's Grandchildren.

EVA MAY LEETE.

JOSEPH LEETE BROWN.





Nephews and Nieces of Mr. Joseph Leete.

JOSEPH LEETE.

SARAH LEETE.

FRANCIS LEETE.

MRS. FRANCIS LEETE.

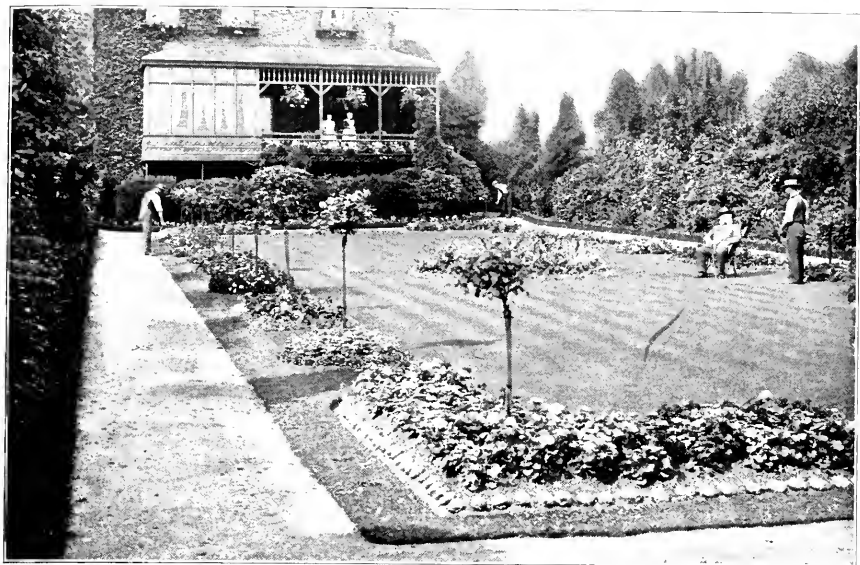
Their Two Sons and Daughter.

HAROLD.

ERNEST.

GWENDOLEN.





EVERSDEN, SOUTH NORWOOD PARK: THE RESIDENCE OF MR. JOSEPH LEETE.



THE WARREN, ROYSTON, HERTS: THE RESIDENCE OF MR. JOSEPH LEETE.









MONUMENT TO THE LATE MRS. LEETE AND WARREN LEETE.

Mr. Joseph Leete lost his beloved wife on the 13th of January, 1899. She was interred in the beautiful burial ground surrounding the Church at Shirley, Surrey.

The accompanying Illustration represents the Monument erected by Mr. Leete to the Memory of his Wife, and second son, Warren. The Inscription is as follows:—

In Loving Memory of  
HARRIET,  
the Wife of  
JOSEPH LEETE,  
of South Norwood Park.  
Born 17<sup>th</sup> July 1829,  
Died 13<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1899.

*A gentle loving Wife,  
Mother, Sister and Friend.  
Gifted as a sweet singer,  
and endowed with the  
noblest qualities of  
heart and mind.*

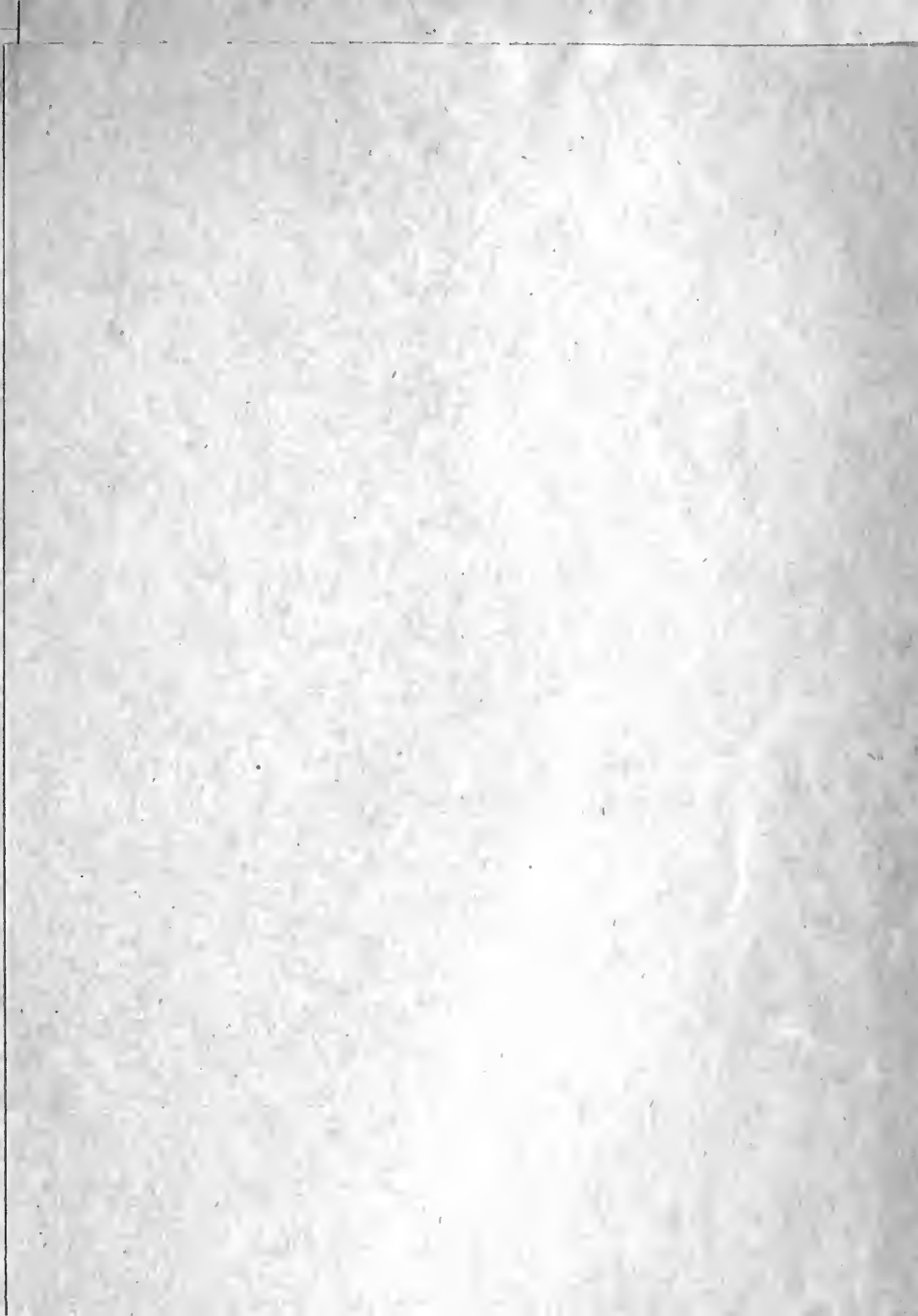
Also of WARREN, son of  
JOSEPH & HARRIET LEETE.  
Born 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1861,  
Died 31<sup>st</sup> August 1898.

*A devoted Husband and Father.*

God calls our loved ones, but we lose not wholly  
What He has given;  
They Live on Earth, in thought and deed, as truly  
As in His heaven.

*In the accompanying large Chart are given, in their proper sequence, the names of the Leetes of Eversden, Guilden Morden, and Royston.*





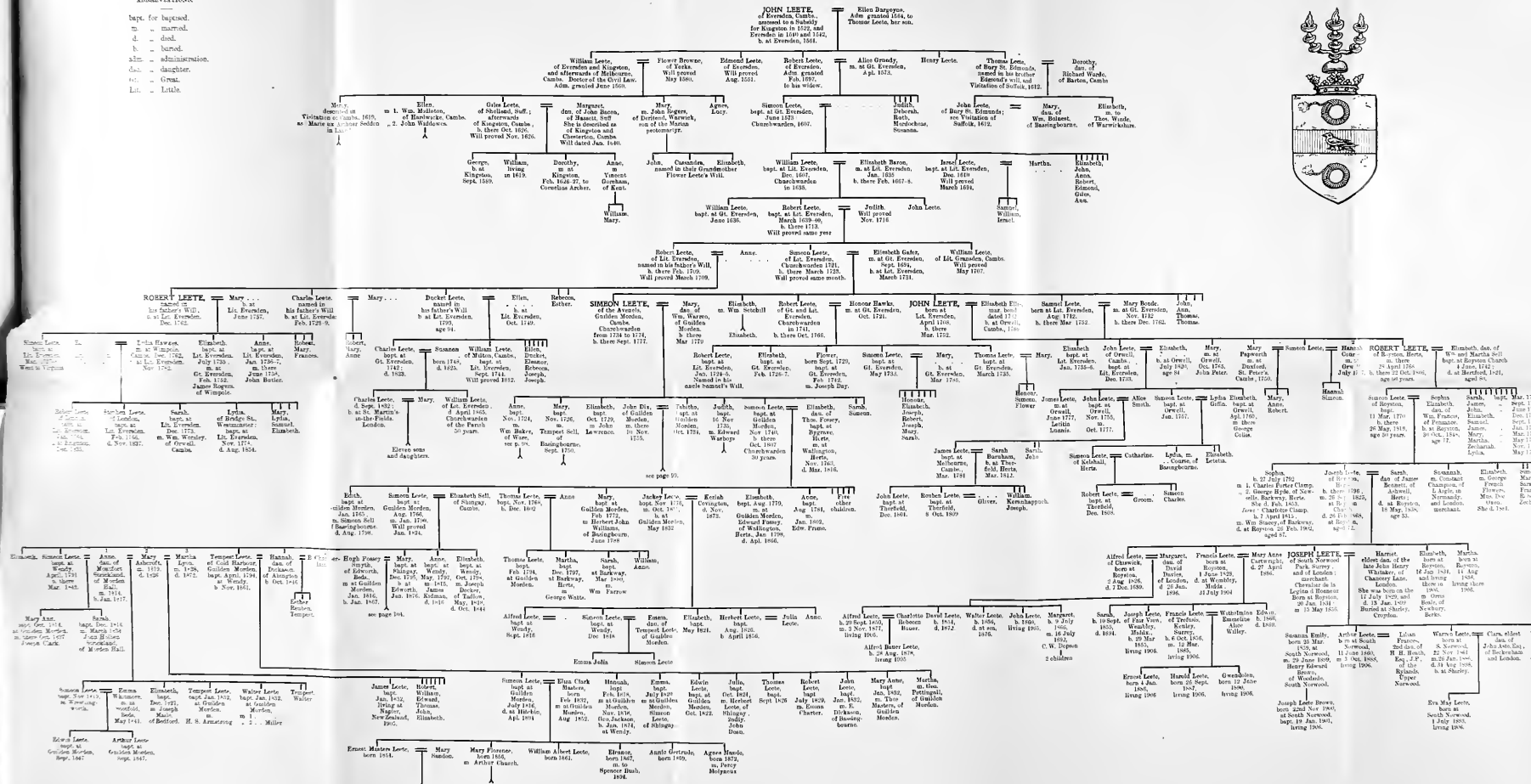


#### ABBREVIATIONS

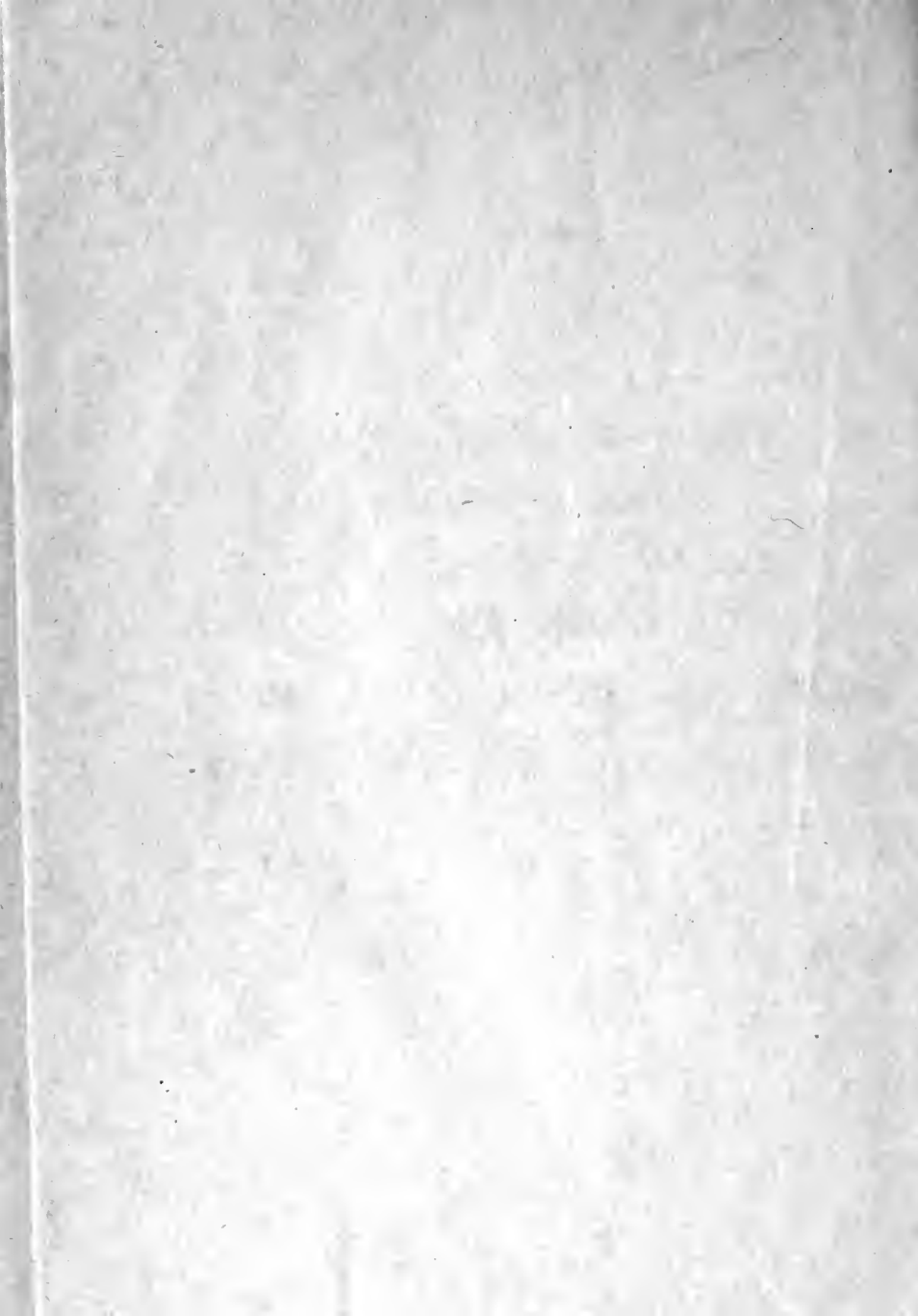
bapt. for baptized.  
m. = married.  
d. = died.  
b. = buried.  
adm. = administration.  
da. = daughter.  
Gr. = Great.  
Lit. = Little.

JOHN LEETE,  
of Eversden, Cambs.  
assessed to a Subsid  
or Kingston in 1522, a  
resides in 1619 and 2

Ellen Bargeyne,  
Adm granted 1554,  
Thomas Leete, her son







THE FAMILY OF LEETE:  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

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OAKINGTON, COMBERTON, ETC., CAMBS;  
DODINGTON, SOUTHOE, ETC., HUNTS;  
THRAPSTON, ETC., NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

## THE OAKINGTON BRANCH.

Another great branch of the English family of Leete sprang from Thomas Leete of Oakington, Cambs., whose name stands at the head of the family pedigree in the *Visitation* of Hunts., A.D. 1613. At that date, Thomas was living at his own home in Cambridgeshire. In 1616 he was buried at Oakington.

The death of Thomas Leete occurred about three years before the *Visitation* of Cambs. in 1619 took place. Had he lived till then, doubtless we should have had fuller details respecting his family. Then might have been witnessed the two bearers of the same surname, Thomas Leete of Oakington and Gyles Leete of Kingston, dwelling in neighbouring Cambridgeshire parishes at the same date, and both accredited with the same family Arms.

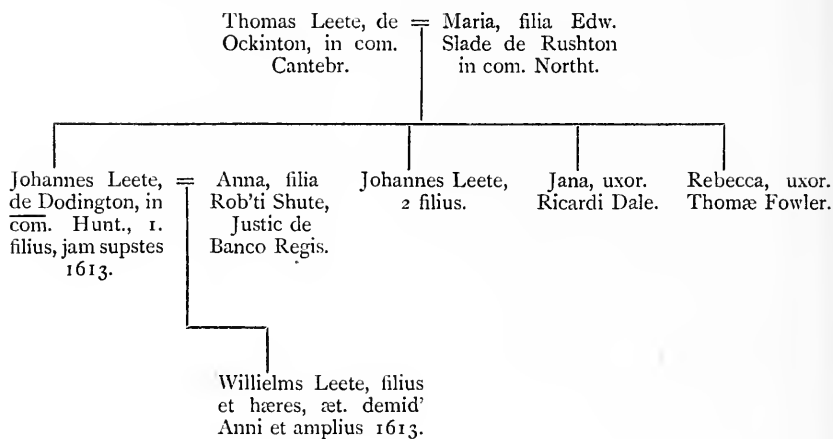
If we turn to the Records of Lay Subsidies in Cambridgeshire, we find that, in the year 1522, John Leete of Eversden was assessed for Kingston; and that, in the same year, Thomas Leete was assessed for Oakington, and also for Comberton. In this connection it will be remembered that Richard le Lyte, elsewhere called Lete, in the year 1303 held lands at Comberton, and Toft; and that in 1595 Gyles Leete of Kingston, grandson of John Leete of Eversden, sued in the Court of Requests for the recovery of the title deeds of his father's estates at Kingston, Eversden and Toft. The two parishes of Comberton and Toft adjoin each other; and as Thomas Leete of Oakington was entitled to the Leete Family Arms equally with Gyles Leete of Eversden, Kingston and Toft; the inference is that Gyles Leete and Thomas Leete both descended from Richard le Lyte, who held land in the same two

parishes of Comberton, and Toft, in 1303. The fact that both Gyles and Thomas Leete possessed an equal right to the Leete Arms, furnishes the best available proof that they had sprung from a common ancestor; and that the Eversden and Oakington branches, with their respective descendants in this country, and in America, have descended from the same original stock. *See the large Oakington Chart.*

---

## PEDIGREE OF LEETE,

From the Visitation of Huntingdonshire, 1613.




I certify the above to be a correct copy of the entry in the Visitation of Huntingdon in 1613 (C. 3. 29<sup>n</sup>) now remaining in the Heralds' College, London, 15th Oct., 1880.

STEPHEN TUCKER,  
Somerset

H.

1  
John Leete, of Dodington,  
in com. Hunt, living  
a<sup>o</sup> 1613; obiit. circa annum  
1654. Eldest son.

1  
William Leete, eldest  
son, Governour of Har-  
ford in New England,  
now living 1684 as is  
supposed, æt. 71.

= Anne, dāur. of John  
Payne, Minister of  
Southoe in co. Hunt.

John Leete  
Grange, ju  
Neots, in  
æt. 70, a

2  
John, now living,  
unmarried, a<sup>o</sup> 1684,  
2<sup>d</sup> son.

1  
Benjamin Leete, died  
at Maidston, in Kent,  
circa an. 1680, ætat.  
40 ferè.

= Elizabeth, dāur. of  
Henry Gilburne, of  
Woolwich, in Kent.  
(a Colonell.)

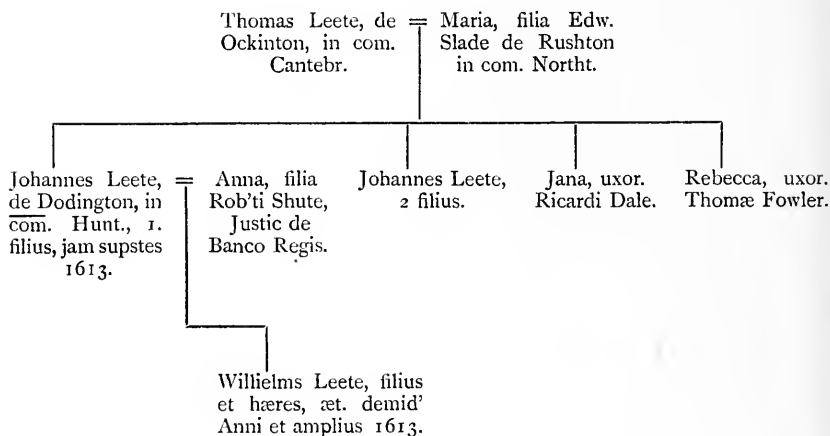
John, æt. 12  
ann. 1684.

1. Anne,  
2. Sarah,  
both unnm

*John Leete*

## PEDIGREE OF LEETE,

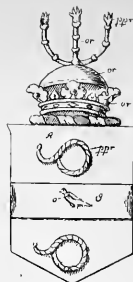
From the Visitation of Huntingdonshire, 1613.



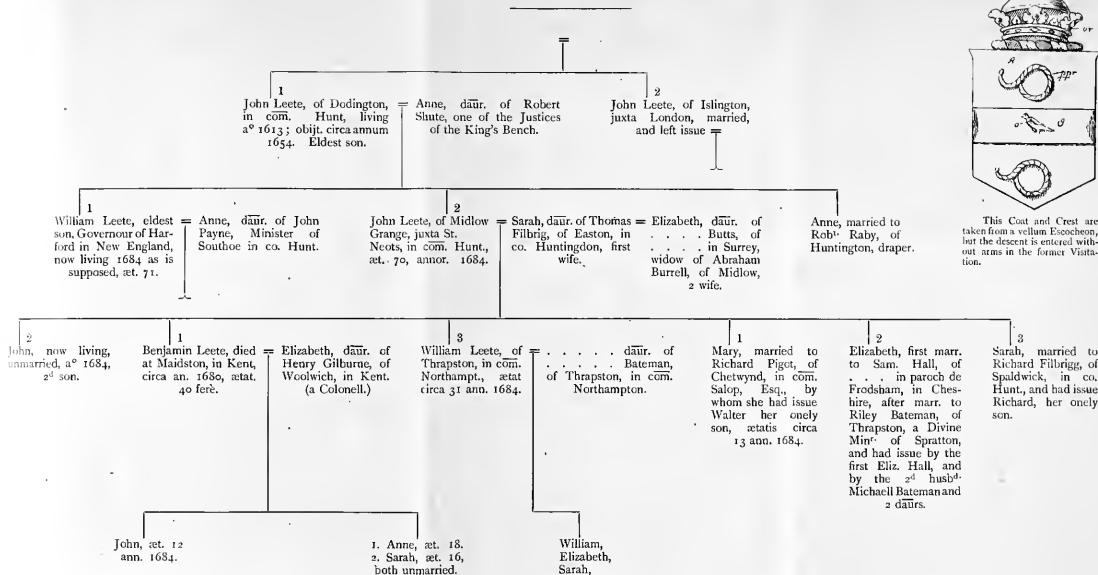
I certify the above to be a correct copy of the entry in the Visitation of Huntingdon in 1613 (C. 3. 29<sup>b</sup>) now remaining in the Heralds' College, London, 15th Oct., 1880.

STEPHEN TUCKER,  
Somerset  
H.

# PEDIGREE OF LEETE, From Visitation of Huntingdon, 1684.



This Coat and Crest are taken from a vellum Escutcheon, but the descent is entered without arms in the former Visitation.

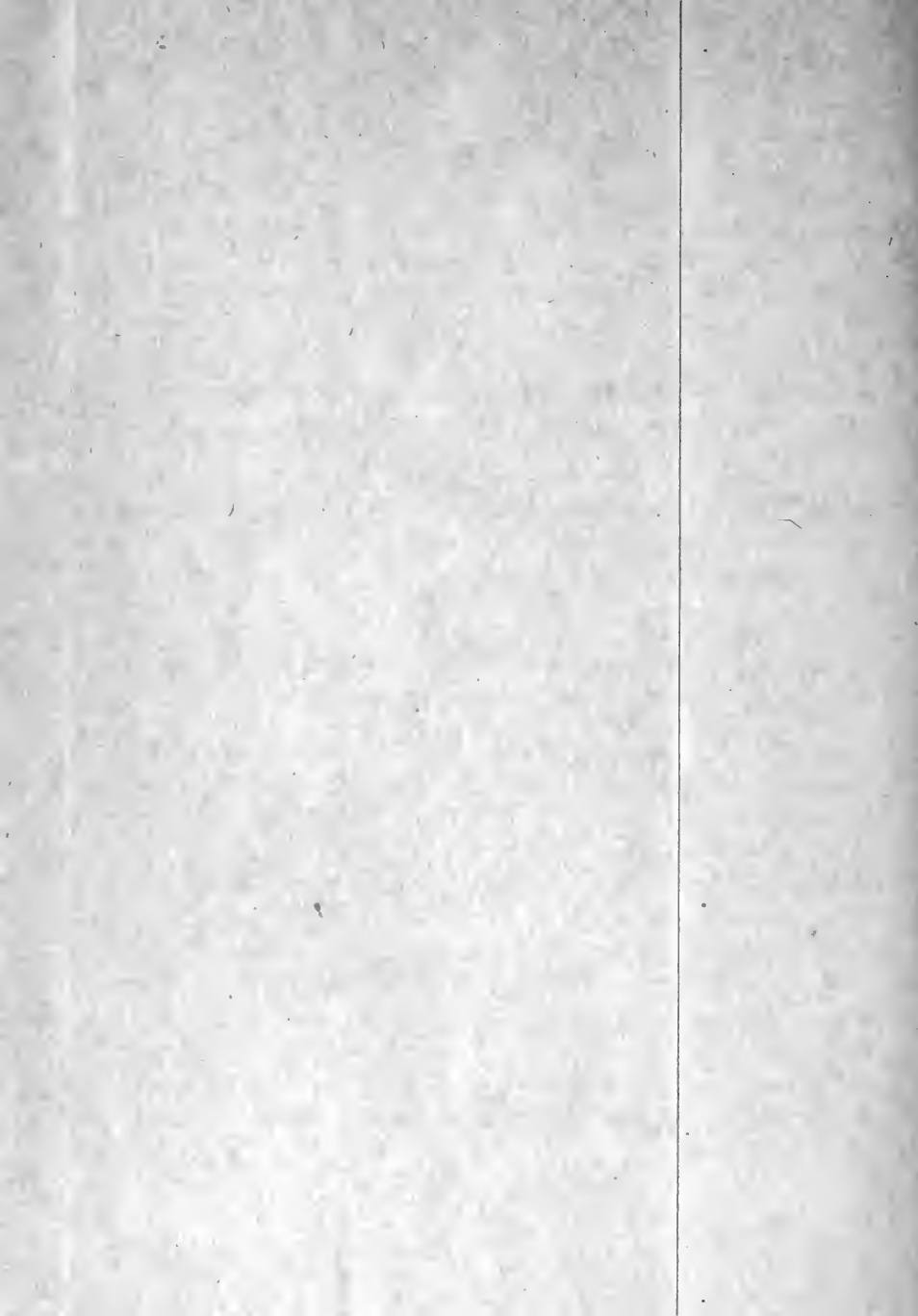


*John Leete*

I certify this to be a true extract from the Record K. 7 now remaining in the Herald's College, London, 18th Oct., 1850.

STEPHEN TUCKER,  
Sunderland.  
H.





## OAKINGTON, CAMBS.

Hokington, Okington, now generally spelt Oakington, with which the family of Leete was formerly closely connected, is a village situate about five miles north-west from the town of Cambridge. The Manor is called Hochinton in Domesday Book. A priest of the Saxon blood-royal gave it to the Church of St. Guthlac (*Croyland Abbey*). The estate now belongs to the Master and Fellows of Queens' College, Cambridge, who acquired it by purchase in the year 1560.

Although its walls have been pierced for lights of a later period, Oakington Church exhibits chiefly what is technically known as Early English work; the upper portion of its font has an appearance of even greater antiquity.

The country near Cambridge being flat, the towers and spires of the famous University are visible from afar. The immediate surroundings are of a purely agricultural character.

The reader will find in the following extracts from the "Regester Boke" of Oakington, and the entries of the Churchwardens, a curious example of the quaint fashion in which these old records were kept, and of the diversity in the spelling of a family name, to which reference has been made in the section which deals with the orthography of the name of Leete. When the same line of the same entry, written by one and the same hand in this old "Regester Boke" of the 16th century, contains such divergent forms of spelling the name, as Lete and Leete, Leat and Leet, leet and Leete, and that succeeding entries respecting members of the same family should range from Let to Leette, it cannot be surprising if the fragmentary

records of a much earlier date should present even more marked variety of form. It is interesting to notice that the form of Let, in which the name first appears in Domesday Book, should recur in the Eversden and Oakington Registers in the 16th century.

## EXTRACTS

## RELATING TO THE FAMILY OF LEETE

from the Parish Register of Oakington, Cambridgeshire.

"THE REGESTER BOKE FOR  
THE PARRIS OF OKINGTON

MAID A M FIVE HUNDRETH LXI (1561.)"

**Baptisms.**

A.D.

- 1561. "Anne Lete the Daughter of Thomas Leete;" 16<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- 1562. "Thomasyn Leete Daughter of Robert Leete;" 6<sup>th</sup> Aug.
- 1565. "Alse Lete daughter to Thomas Leete;" 28<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- 1567. "ffrancis Leete sonn of Robrt Leete;" 11<sup>th</sup> Nov.
- 1568. "Thomas Leet sonn of Robrt Leet;" 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb.
- 1570. "Vrsela Leat dauyght of Robrt Leet;" 6<sup>th</sup> Oct.
- "John Leet the sonn of Thomas Leet;" 24<sup>th</sup> Decr.
- 1571. "Thomasyn Leet was baptised the v day of Aperill."
- 1575. "John Leete the sonn of T. Lette;" 13 May.
- 1577. "Jane Leete the daughte<sup>r</sup> of T. Leete<sup>13</sup>" (*sic*).
- 1579. "Beck Leet was baptised y<sup>e</sup> first of May."
- 1592. "Johan Leet was baptised the first daye of January."
- 1603. "Alice Leet y<sup>e</sup> daughter of ffrancis Leet;" 1 May.
- 1609. "Elizabeth Leete\* the daughttr of ffrancis Leette\* & Margaret his wife;"  
1 Nov.

\* NOTE.—In the Bishop's Transcript relating to this baptism both these names are spelt *Leete*.

**Marriages.**

- A.D.  
 1568. "Thomas Leet was maryed the xij day of Nouember."  
 1574. "T(hom)as Leet was maried the secondaye of June."  
 1587-8. "William Leet was maryed the xiiij day of October."  
 1617. "Richard leet & Elsabeth (Elizabeth) Rogers marryed Jan. 17."  
 1623. "John Pashelor & Alice leet marryed febv. 9."  
 1632. "Thomas Weyman & Elizabeth Leet marryed May 27."

**Burials.**

1564. "Thomas Leete was buried y<sup>e</sup> ix day of July."  
 1566. "Alse Leete the wife of Thomas Leete was buried the thurd day of february."  
 1568. "William Leet was buried the xx day of february."  
 " " "Alse Let was buried the xvj daie of November."  
 1571. "John Leet was buryed the xxvj. day of June."  
 1573. "Robrt Leet was buried the xij day of November."  
 " " "Alse Leet was buried the xxv daye of January."  
 " " "John Leet was buried the xxvij day of January."  
 1582. "Thoma Leete was buried y<sup>e</sup> iv of february."  
 1587. "Thomasine Leet was buryed the ij day of September."  
 1592. "William Leete was buried the xxviiij day of October."

(NOTE. Under date 1598 occurs the following entry:—)

1598. { "We the Churchwardēs do satisfie your good worships that accordinge to our knowledg we have Recorded and done althings accordinglye to our consens (conscience). Also our minister haue set to his hand upon the fact (?) hearof and we the said Churchwardens have done the like: furdemōe to satisfie your good worship we haue also provid a chist w<sup>th</sup> three locks to kepe the said Regester booke in  
 (Signed) Lewis Hellabon Vicar.  
 . The ma<sup>k</sup>e of Thomas Leet  
 The ma<sup>k</sup>e of Cristo<sup>r</sup> Bennet  
 being Church Wardens at this  
 p<sup>r</sup>esent time for Okington."

A.D.

1610. "Marie (Mary) Leete the wife of Thomas Leete was buried the xxv<sup>th</sup> daye of September."
- 1616-17. "Thomas leet burryed 12 nouemb."
- " "Isabell leet the wife of Richard Leete buryed—Sept. 3."
1629. "Richard Leete was buried Maye 19."
1632. "John Leet son of Francis Leet buried July 7."
1651. "Margret Leet. Wido buried May 1."

The name Richard Leete appears as Churchwarden of Oakington at the foot of the transcripts for the years 1612, 1613, 1614 and 1615; his surname being spelt *Leate* on the transcript for 1613. Subjoined is his autograph.

*Richard Leete*

This Richard was a son of Thomas Leete of Oakington. He died in May, 1629.

Francis Leete signed as Churchwarden in the year 1624, and also in 1625, but he wrote his surname in the last named year *Lette*.

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE SUBSIDIES.

The following Members of the Leete Family, then resident at Oakington, were assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire, in the years and reigns mentioned.

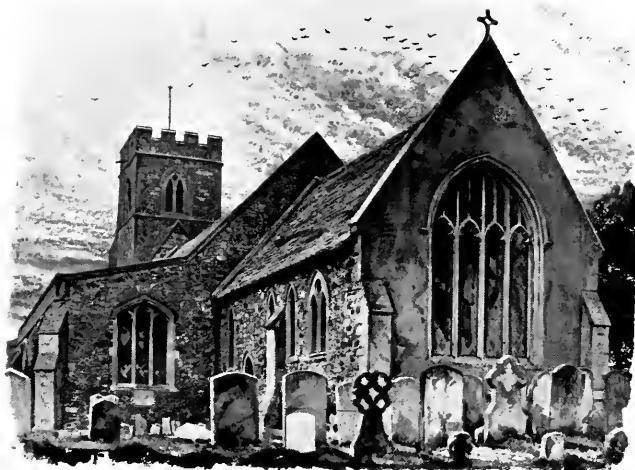
#### OAKINGTON.

A.D.

- 1522-3 (14-15 Hen. VIII.)—Hokynton . . . Thomas Lete . . . in goods £3.
- 1566-7 ( 8 Elizabeth)—Okington . . . Thomas Leet . . . „ £3.
- 1571-2 (13 Elizabeth)—Hockington . . . Thomas Leete . . . „ £3.
- 1620-21 (19 James I.)—Oginton . . . Richard Leete . . .
1625. (1. Charles I.)—Okington . . . Richard Leete . . . in lands £2.



OAKINGTON.



OAKINGTON CHURCH.



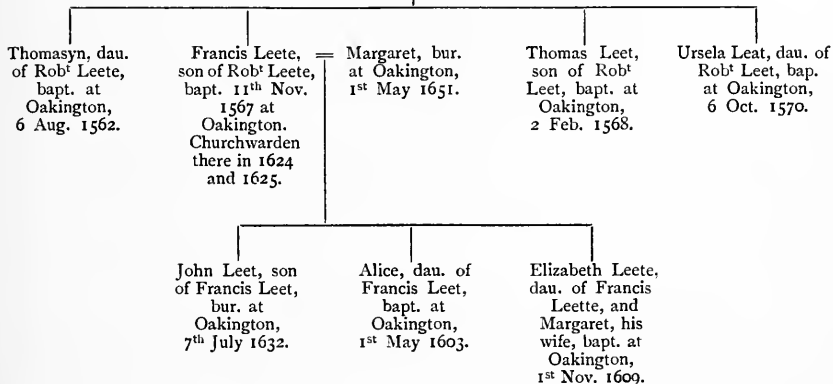
## Wills and Administrations

*Relating to the Oakington Branch of the Family of Leete.*

1573. *ffebruarij. Robtus Lete dñi vixit de Okington nup decessit & quinto die mensis et Ao Dni sup̄ scripti Johes Johnson Artifi m<sup>r</sup> Commissarius et comisit administration bonoz dñi defuncti Alicie eius Relictye. etc.*

*Transl.*—**Robert Lete** whilst living at Oakington lately died and in the fifth day of the month and in the year of the Lord above written (*viz.*, 1573, old style), John Johnson, Master of Arts, Commissioner, committed Administration of the goods of the said deceased to Alice his Relict, etc. *Ely Reg<sup>r</sup>*

Robert Lete, = Alice.  
bur. at Oakington,  
12 Nov., 1573.  
Admin. to his widow,  
on 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1573  
(old style).





1592. Willmus Leete nup dum vixit de Okeington ab intestato decessit. Et XXV<sup>to</sup> die Novembris Ano pd<sup>o</sup> pd<sup>o</sup> Mr. Willm<sup>s</sup> Revell comessit Administracōem bonor<sup>o</sup> dict<sup>o</sup> def<sup>o</sup> Katherine Leete vid<sup>o</sup> relict et nup vx dict<sup>o</sup> def<sup>o</sup>, etc.

*Transl.*—**William Leete** while lately he lived at Oakington died without a Will. And on the twenty-fifth day of November in the before said year Mr. William Revell committed the Administration of the Goods of the said deceased to Katherine Leete, widow, the relict and lately the wife of the said deceased, etc.—*Ely Register*.

[The Oakington Register gives October 28th, 1592, as the date of the burial of the above named William Leete.]

1616. Thomas Leete nup du<sup>o</sup> vixit de Ockington<sup>o</sup> ab intesstato decessit. Et septimo die mensis decembris Ao dni 1616 apud Cantabr<sup>o</sup> venerabilis vir magēr Willimus Gager Il Dor pd co<sup>o</sup> cessit Administracōem bonoru<sup>o</sup> pr<sup>o</sup> dci<sup>o</sup> defuncti Richō Leete filio naturali et lētimo, etc.

*Transl.*—**Thomas Leete** lately whilst he lived at Oakington died without a Will. And on the seventh day of the month of December in the year of the Lord 1616, at Cambridge, the venerable man Master William Gager, Doctor of Laws, the beforesaid granted Administration of the goods of the aforesaid deceased to **Richard Leete**, his natural and legitimate son, etc.—*Ely Register*.

[November 12th is mentioned in the Oakington Register as the day on which Thomas Leete was buried.]

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### COMBERTON, CAMBS.

A.D.

1303 (31 Edw. I.)—**Richard le Lyte** held part of a Knight's fee in Comberton.

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**Will** of RICHARD LEETE OF COMBERTON, CAMBS : A.D. 1520.

Mention is made in one of the ancient Indexes of Wills, now at Peterboro', of "*Leete, Ryc de Comb'ton*," (Richard Leete of Comberton,) circ. 1520 : but the Will, referred to, cannot be found.

*Assessed to the Subsidy for Cambridgeshire :*

COMBERTON.

A.D.					
1522-3	(14-15 Hen. VIII.)	—Thomas Leete	.	.	in wages £1.
"	"	Henry Leete	.	.	„ goods £4.

[In the same year the above-named Thomas Leete was assessed for Oakington : *See pages 25 and 132.*]

The following is the Will of Henry Leete mentioned above.

**Testamentum HENRICI LEETE DE COMBERTON, CAMBS :**

A.D. 1540-41.

"*In the name of god Amen I henry Leete of Comberton beyng of full mynde and goode memorye the xxviii daye of Octobr<sup>r</sup> in the yer<sup>r</sup> of ou<sup>r</sup> Lord god A thousand fyve hundreth and fourtye The too and threttie yer<sup>r</sup> of the Reign of ou<sup>r</sup> soveraigne Lord Kyng henry the viii<sup>th</sup> make here my laste will and Testament in mañ and fome folowyng ffyrste I henry Leete, as a trwe christen man bequeath my Sowle to Allmyghtye god my Creato<sup>r</sup> and Redemer Jesu<sup>u</sup> Christe ou<sup>r</sup> Lorde to beiwthe companie of the moste blessed virgyn Saincte Marye and all the heavynly fealyshyppe my bodye to be buryed in the xxvi<sup>th</sup> buryalls And my ffunerals to be kept at the discession of my Wyfe or children Secoñdarely I gyffe and bequeathe all my goodes moveables and vnmmoveables to Johane my Wyfe all and singler that god hathe indwed me with terme of her lyffe shee payng my debtys or dwetyes of all suche as Rightfully of her can be demādyd with sufficyent Recorde and specyaltie of the same And shee to use and occupye all thing honestlye at her Will and pleas<sup>re</sup> to her moste proffytt and adūtage for her behooff in all her needys and necessityes And no mañ of psone herto to saye the contrarye Thirdly after the decesse of Johane my wyffe*

the goodes before to her of me **henry Leete** bequeath<sup>n</sup> I holly gyve and bequeathe to her Childern and myn of our bodyes Lawfully begotten That is to vnderstond the oone half to **Rose my dowghter** the wyfe of John Mede and the childern between them Lawfully begotten on the one ptye And **Margarett Selby my dowghter** the wyffe of henry Selbye and their Childern of their bodyes Lawfully begotten to have thother hallff All this to be doone withowte Tribulacon<sup>n</sup> fraude or gyle And in tokyn that this is my laste will and deede I **henry Leete** take god to my Reacord and thies honest men hereafter folowyng and vnder subscribed the yere and daye above rehersyd by me **henry Leete** in the p'sence of Master John Porye my gostlye ffather fealow of benett Colledge that mi<sup>o</sup>stred to me the blessyd Sacrement and Master John Meer gentylma<sup>n</sup> beddyll Lawrence Andrewe goldsmythe whiche will Testefye this Will to be trwe And allso here was by at the Rehersall of thies words before spoken John Medor henry Selby."

(Proved 20th February, 1540-41,  
in the Consistory Court of Cambridge.)

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**Will of JOHN LEETE of ISLINGTON: A.D. 1623-4.**

"In the name of God Amen The Eleaventh day of October 1623 in the xxj<sup>th</sup> yeare of the raigne of our most gracious so<sup>u</sup>laigne Lord James by the grace of god of England franncce & Ireland Kinge defendor of the fayth &c the xxi<sup>st</sup> and of Scotland the seaven and fiftie I **John Leete** of Islington in the Countie of Midd<sup>l</sup> Yeoman, Beinge weake of body, but of good and pfect memory thanks be given to Almightye god therefore doe ordayne and make this my last will and Testa<sup>m</sup>t in man<sup>n</sup> and forme followinge that is to say ; ffirst I comend my soule into the handes of Almightye god my Creator trustinge to be saved through the merritts of Jesus Christ my Redeemer, and my body I comend to the earth to be buried in Christian like man<sup>n</sup> at the discretion of my Executor hereafter named and as concerninge my tempall goods wherewith it hath pleased god to blesse me I doe dispose of them as followeth ffirst whereas there is already due to my wives sonn Thomas Horneby the some of one and twenty poundes given vnto him by his father George Horneby my will and minde is that he shall have the saide xxi<sup>li</sup> and nine pounds more of my guift to make it thirty poundes to be payde him altogeather when he shall come to the end of his yeares of Aprentiship Item I give vnto my sonne **Anthony Leete** the some of xxx<sup>li</sup> of lawfull money of England to be payde him when he shall come to the age of fower and twenty

yeares, And to my sonne **John Leete** I give xx<sup>li</sup> of lawfull money of England to be payde him when he shall come to the age of fower and twenty yeares And likewise I give vnto my sonne **William Leete** the some of xx<sup>li</sup> of lawfull money of England to be payde him when he shall come to the age of fower and twenty yeares Item my will is that if any of my three sonnes—**Anthony, John, or William** shall dye before they shall come to the sefall ages of xxiiij yeares the porcion and legacie of him or them that shall so dye, shall come to them or him that shall survive to be equallie divided betweene them with all the profit that shall come and be made of his or theire porcion that shall dye Item that whereas there is owing to me Lxxxviij<sup>li</sup> by Richard Atkinson w<sup>ch</sup> wilbe due to be paid to me or my Executrix about the midle of Aprill next my will is that my wife shall add twelve poundes more to the saide <sup>xx</sup> <sub>iiij</sub> and viij<sup>li</sup> to make it vp a hundred poundes, and to be deliued vnto the hands of my good freinde Mr. John Cosferd gentleman and my brother **John Leete** to be ymployed by them for the best use and pfitt of the saide fower Children, and my minde is that all the saide fower childrens legacies shalbe paide out of this saide hundred poundes given them as aforesaide, The rest of all my goods chattells Cattle and houshold stuffe whatsoever I give vnto **Joane my lovinge wife** to see this my will pformed and to see my fuall discharged, And I make the saide **Joane my wife** Executrix of this my last will and Testament revoking all other Willes heretofore by me made In witnes whereof I have herevnto sett my hand and seale the day and yeare above written **John Leete** published and declared by the saide John Leete to be his last will and Testament in the pñce of John Bullet Anthony Ash."

Administration granted to "Johanne Leete" on the 21st of February, 1623-4.

[The above John Leete of Islington was brother to John Leete of Dodington, Co. Hunts, and uncle to Governor Wm. Leete, and John Leete of Midlow Grange. The name of John Leete of Islington appears both in the *Visitation* of Huntingdonshire in 1613, and in that of 1684.]

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1693. **Mary Leete** of Midlow Co. Hunts. Admin. granted to **John Leete** the husband, 26 May. P.C.C.

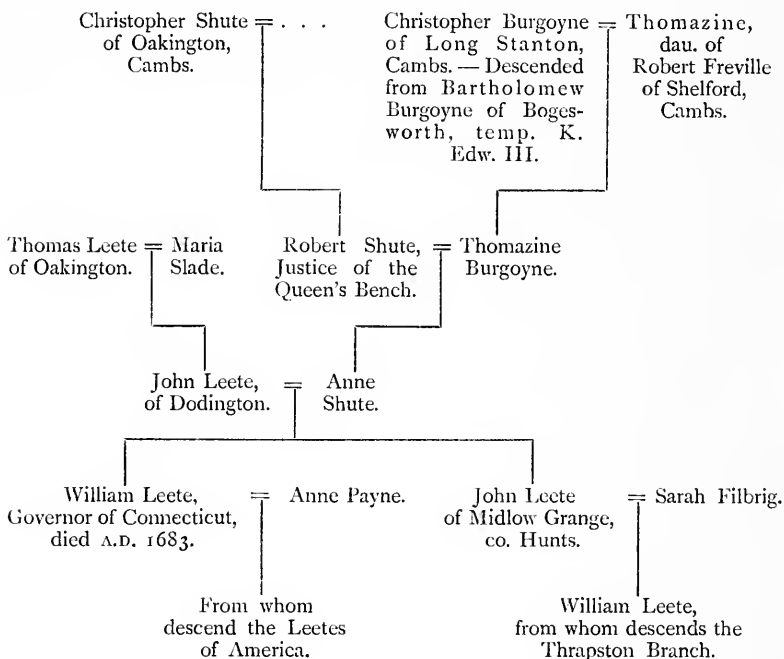
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## ROBERT SHUTE OF OAKINGTON, CAMBS.

*Justice of the King's Bench.*

The Country seat of Justice Shute was at Oakington ; in the Register of that Parish are various entries relating to his family.

The following brief pedigree gives details of the connection between the Leetes of Oakington and the family of Shute.







INTERIOR OF KING'S COLLEGE CHAPEL,  
CAMBRIDGE.

In the year 1558 Robert Shute was elected Recorder of Cambridge. It was during the period of his holding this office that on August 4th, 1564, Queen Elizabeth visited Cambridge. The Queen's stay was prolonged to five days, during which Her Majesty was entertained with plays, orations, and academical exercises. Surveying the capacious dimensions of King's College Chapel, and the fan-like tracery of its lofty roof of stone, Queen Elizabeth expressed admiration of its grandeur. "The Quene . . . mervelouslye reioisying at the Beawtie of the Chapell greatlye praysed it above all other within this her Realme."

Recorder Shute represented the town of Cambridge in the Parliaments of 1571 and 1572.

In 1579 Robert Shute became a Baron of the Exchequer. In 1585 he was removed to the Queen's Bench, where he remained until his death, which occurred in 1590.

Justice Shute's great-grandson assumed the name of Barrington; and, in 1720, was raised to the Peerage as Baron and Viscount Barrington.

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## DIDDINGTON, HUNTS.

From the Visitation of Hunts, 1613, we learn that, Thomas Leete of Oakington in Cambridgeshire had two sons, both of whom bore the Christian name of John. The elder of these brothers is described as John Leete of Dodington, Hunts. He was the father of Governor William Leete.



Departing from his father's home at Oakington, John Leete and his wife Anne, the daughter of Justice Shute, took up their abode some fourteen miles westward, at Dodington, or as it is now called Diddington, in Huntingdonshire; and here their eldest son William was born.

The rural parish of Diddington lies five miles distant by road, south of the county town of Huntingdon; famous as the birthplace of the Protector Oliver Cromwell. At Buckden, which adjoins Diddington, are some fine remains of the old Palace of the Bishops of Lincoln; and the noble church of St. Mary. Not far to the east of Diddington, fed by numerous tributaries, the river Ouse flows through verdant meadows onwards, past Huntingdon and Godmanchester, to the ocean.

Diddington Church, and its little cemetery, stand within the picturesque park of Squire Thornhill. The Church is dedicated to St. Laurence. It consists of a nave with clerestory, a chancel, north and south aisles, a south porch, and an embattled tower at the west end. Much of the chancel has been rebuilt, it still retains however vestiges of Early English work; and the doorway in the south porch is of the same style.

The Parish Register of Diddington begins with the year 1688. It was therefore not commenced until many years after the birth of Governor William Leete; and consequently possesses no interest for his family.

Signature of Governor Leete's  
father, from Camden's Visitation  
of Hunts, 1613.

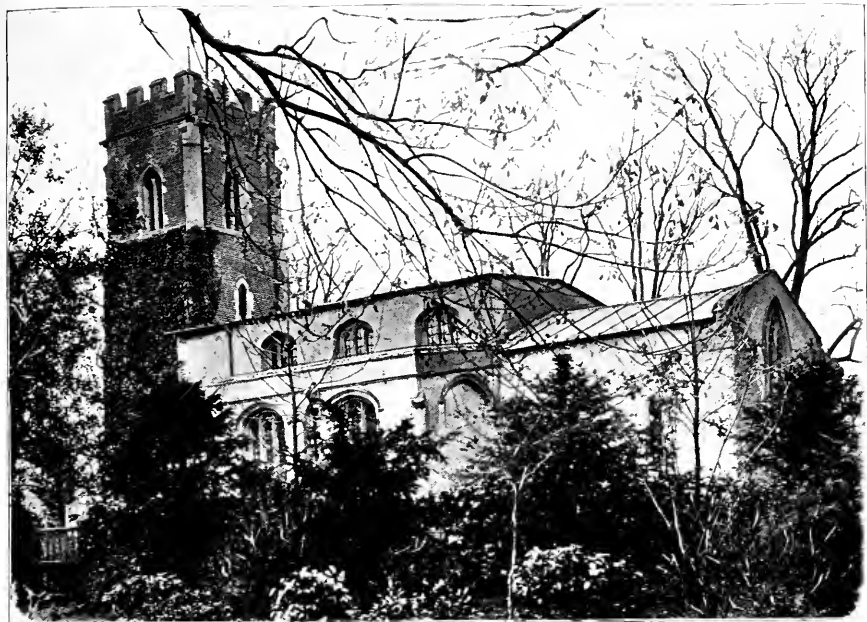
*Cott. MS., Julius F. viii.*





NORMAN DOORWAY, SOUTHOE CHURCH.





DIDDINGTON CHURCH.



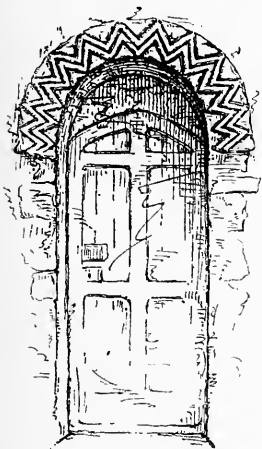
SOUTHOE CHURCH.



## SOUTHOE, HUNTS.

The village of Southoe, in Huntingdonshire, is situate one mile south from Diddington.

Dedicated to St. Leonard, Southoe Church is a very ancient foundation. The inner doorway of its south porch exhibits a fine example of Norman work; the Chancel and Chancel Arch are Early English.



NORMAN DOORWAY.  
(Interior view.)

It was to this Church that the Rev. John Paine was inducted on the 20th of October in the year 1600; and he continued for thirty-five years Rector of Southoe. He was father of that "Anna Pain" whose baptism is recorded in the Parish Register under date 31st July, 1621. Her mother was Anne Underhill, a widow; to whom the Rev. John Paine had been married on the third day of August, 1620; and Anne Paine was their eldest child.

On the 20th September, 1635, the Rev. John Paine was buried at Southoe.

On the first of August, 1636, his daughter Anne was married in the Church of the neighbouring parish of Hail Weston, to William Leete; along with whom, three years afterwards, she went to America.

## THE PARISH REGISTER.

The Register Book of the Parish of Southoe commenced A.D. 1558. From that date, up to the year 1635, the entries are written in Latin. They refer largely to the family of Pain, Paine or Payne. The following extracts are interesting, relating, as they do, to Anne Pain, the wife of Gov. Wm. Leete, and to her family.

"Johannes Paine inducts erat in actualem, realem et corporalem possessione Ecclæsiæ pochlio de Sowtho cū membris p Henricu' Mariott vicaria de Dodington vicesimo die Octobris anno dom'. Millimo Sex cent<sup>m</sup>  
p<sup>r</sup> me Henricū  
mariott 1600."

*Immediately following the above entry occurs this :—*

"M<sup>d</sup> John Paine was inducted into y<sup>e</sup> parish Church of Sowtho cū membris by Henry Mariott Vicar of Dodington and actually really and corporally possessed of the same y<sup>e</sup> twentieth day of October anno dom. 1600. in y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>r</sup>nce of us Churchwardens : vilet. Christop<sup>r</sup> Storer and John Lancaster. togeth<sup>r</sup> w<sup>th</sup> oth<sup>r</sup> Inhabitants there being p<sup>r</sup>nt. In wittnes wherof we have subscrib<sup>d</sup> o<sup>r</sup> names."

*Here follow the names of the two Churchwardens and nine other persons, only five out of the eleven writing their names, the others being represented by their marks.*

"Johañes Pain Clericus vxorē duxit Annam Vnderhill vidua tertio die Augusti anno Dom. 1620."

Translated into English this signifies that :—

The Rev. John Pain was married to Anne Underhill, widow, on the third day of August in the year of our Lord, 1620.

"Anna Pain filia Johñis Pain Clici bap<sup>ta</sup> erat vltimo die Julij anno Dom. 1621."

Anne Pain daughter of the Rev. John Pain was baptized the last day of July in the year of our Lord 1621.

*Jta est Johannes Paine S*

Autograph of the Rev. John Paine, as it appears in the Southoe Register.

*The final signature of "Johannes Paine" appears under an entry dated "sexto die Martij. 1633": and shortly afterwards this:—*

"Johanis Paine Vicar Sepult erat vicesim̃ die Septembris Anno Doñi. 1635."

John Paine, Vicar, was buried the 20th day of September, in the year of our Lord, 1635.

During the period of the Commonwealth no continuous entries appear to have been made in the Register of Southoe.

It is, however, a matter of great interest to know that, John Leete of Midlow Grange, who was the son of John, of Dodington, and brother of Governor William Leete, caused various entries relating to his family to be made in this Parish Register. Midlow Grange, where John Leete lived, is a moated residence, close to Southoe. The entries relating to John Leete's family in the Southoe Register confirm the particulars recorded by the Heralds in their Visitation of Huntingdonshire in 1684.

*The Register is carried regularly on till the 15th day of March, 1638-39; but does not commence again till 4th October, 1660. On the back of the page on which the two last named dates are entered occurs the following:—*

"Beniamin Leete the sonne of John Leete\* was borne x of July. 1641."

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\* This was John Leete of Midlow Grange.



*The uppermost one of two entries only on the back of the succeeding leaf runs thus :—*

“Mary Leete the Daughter of John Leete was Baptized the x<sup>th</sup> of August 1644.”

*On the third succeeding page the only entry is :—*

“Eliza : Leete the Daughter of John Leete was Borne the 30<sup>th</sup> of March Ano Doñ. 1647.”

*The following is one of the five entries on the first page of next leaf :—*

“John Leete the sonne of John Leete was borne the 13<sup>th</sup> of Novembr Ano dom. 1649.”

*Of three entries only on the second succeeding page this :—*

“William Leete† the sonne of John Leete was borne the 19<sup>th</sup> day of September, 1651.”

*On second page after last :—*

“Sarah Leete daughter of John Leete gent. was borne the 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 1653.”

*After one or two blank pages the register commences again in 1653, and under A.D. 1661, occurs :—*

“Sarah Leete the wife of Jon Leete Gentelman was Burried the 14 of Aprill 1661.”

Sarah Leete, of whom the burial is here recorded, was the first wife of John Leete of Midlow Grange, and the mother of all his children.

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† This William Leete eventually removed to Thrapston, in Northamptonshire, where he became the head of a numerous family.





MIDLOW GRANGE, SOUTHOE, HUNTS.

*Where John Leete, brother of Governor Wm. Leete, was living when the Heralds visited Huntingdonshire, in 1684.*

It may interest the reader to know that the dwelling known as Midlow Grange, which John Leete occupied upwards of two hundred years ago, has withstood the ravages of time. We recently visited this old moated homestead of the Leetes, the present aspect of which is reproduced in the accompanying illustration.

Signature of John Leete, of Midlow Grange;  
from Royalist Composition Papers. *State Papers—  
Record Office.*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'John Leete' with a stylized flourish at the end.

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## HAIL WESTON.

The village of Hail Weston, about two miles and a half south-west of Southoe, is situate not far from the market town of St. Neots, famous for its cathedral-like Church; and on the road leading to Kimbolton.

Hail Weston Parish Church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, consists of a Chancel and Nave both under one roof, with porch on north side; and a remarkable wooden turret or tower, covered with shingles, at the west end. The font, a massive octagon, is ornamented with some heavy, Norman-looking, volutes. There are one or two Early English lancet-shaped lights, as well as traces of what is technically known as Decorated work in various parts of the building. The east window, of three lights, is Perpendicular.

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Extract from the Parish Register of Hayleweston, now Hail Weston, in the County of Huntingdon:—

*"Guiliellmus Leete uxorem duxit Annam Pain primo die Augusti Anno Dom. 1636."*

Here is the facsimile of this entry:—

*Guiliellmus Leete uxorem duxit Annam Pain primo  
die Augusti Anno Dom 1636*

William Leete took to wife Anne Pain the first day of August in the year of our Lord 1636.

The above entry refers to the marriage of William Leete, who afterwards became Governor of Connecticut, with Anne Paine, daughter of the Rev<sup>d</sup> John Paine, Rector of Southoe. It was the only marriage that was solemnised in the Church of Hailweston in the year 1636. The accuracy of the record for that year was attested thus:—

"Ita est per me Henricum  
Glewe, Curatum.

Richard Wraner: } Church  
Geo: T Thody } Wardens."

This extract, culled from the Parish Register of Hail Weston, in Huntingdonshire, where unnoticed for generations it had slumbered, but now is brought to light, will for ever be of interest to the descendants of Governor William Leete.



HAIL WESTON CHURCH.



INTERIOR OF HAIL WESTON CHURCH.



# KEYSTON, HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

Keyston stands on the western border of Huntingdonshire, a little off the main roads which lead to Huntingdon and St. Neots. The Village clusters near the noble spire of its parish Church. As the crow flies, Keyston lies about twelve miles north-west of Diddington, Hunts; Thrapston, in Northamptonshire, is situate three and a-half miles due west from Keyston.

Keyston Parish Register commences A.D. 1637-38.

On the first page of it occur these two entries :—

“Mary Leet the Daughter of Mr Willm Leete was baptized Noū 18, 1638.”

“Mary Leet daughter of Mr William Leet buried January 26, 1638.”

The *old* volume from whence the above extracts were taken is much smaller, and older looking, than the volume which contains the following explanatory Note, thus :—“In this end of the booke you haue an accompt of all marriages baptizings and burialls as they were left in loose paper by Henry Wallis late Pariish Clarke (or Sexton) of this Parrish of Keiston and deceased Now. 8, 1649, the other to Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> 1653 were truely taken by me Thomas Lumley sworne Register and by me all entred in to this booke in the Yeare 1654.”

On the first page of this last-named *larger* volume is written, under the year 1638-9 :—

“Mary the daughter of Mr William Leete was bapt Nou : 18.”

“Mary the daughter of Mr Will Leete was Buried Jan : 26.”

The above entries in the Parish Register of Keyston relate to the baptism and burial of the first-born child of William Leete and Ann Paine, whose marriage had been solemnised at Hail-Weston in August, 1636.

In the Indenture, dated 13th April, 1639, by which Edward Jones, a resident of Northamptonshire, agrees to serve William



Leete three years as a house-builder in New England, William Leete describes himself as of Keystone, Hunts. He signed on ship-board, June 1st, 1639, the document known as "the Plantation Covenant." Keystone, therefore, was the last place of William Leete's residence in England, before he emigrated with his wife to America.

Other extracts from the Parish Register of Keystone, relating to the Family of Leete.

### Baptisms.

- A.D.  
 1705. "Mary the daught<sup>r</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Leet & of Alice his wife was born Sept. 28 :  
 and baptized Octob<sup>r</sup> 26<sup>th</sup>.  
 1712. "Dorothy Leete daughter of M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Leete & Alice his Wife" bapt<sup>d</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> June.  
 171<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>. "Wingfield y<sup>e</sup> son of M<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Leet & Alice his Wife was Baptiz<sup>e</sup>d, March y<sup>e</sup>  
 24 : 171<sup>5</sup>/<sub>6</sub>."  
 1758. "James Leet the son of John & Jane Pearson  
 was baptized Jan<sup>y</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 25 } 1758.  
 & buried Mar : 20 }

### Burials.

1729. "Dor<sup>y</sup> Daughter of W<sup>m</sup> Leete Gent. Dec<sup>d</sup> and Alice his wife, bur<sup>d</sup> at Keystone.  
 May : 31 : 1729."

In the North Transept of Keystone Church, on the floor, a black slate slab has these Inscriptions :—

Here  
 Lyeth Interred  
 DOROTHY LEETE,  
 4<sup>th</sup> Daughter of  
 William & Alice Leete,  
 the dear adopted child  
 of Dorothy Lee her  
 ever sorrowing Aunt, &  
 Wife of H. Lee, D.D.  
 Rector of this Church.  
 She dyed May y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>  
 1729. In the 17<sup>th</sup> year of  
 her Age.

DOROTHY LEE,  
 Widow of  
 Henry Lee, D.D.  
 Died May 24,  
 1762  
 Aged 76 years.

## THE LEETES OF THRAPSTON.

In the Parish Church of Thrapston, in Northamptonshire, are numerous records, monumental and otherwise, to the Leetes descended from William Leete, son of John Leete of Midlow Grange, Hunts. These descendants resided here, uninterruptedly, for about two centuries. They are particularly remembered for having, in regular succession, followed the medical profession; some of them being described in their Wills by the old-fashioned name of apothecary. The last of these Leetes of the medical profession, John Griffith Leete, Esq., died at Thrapston in 1868. Other members of the family became clergymen in the Church of England. Of this number was the Rev. John Leete, who became Rector of Bletsoe, Beds. His son was the late Rev. Thomas Troughton Leete, of Reading, and of Poling, Sussex, who took considerable pains in the investigation of the family history. In this he was assisted by the Rev. Lord Shute Barrington, who prepared a genealogical Chart, commencing with Thomas Leete of Oakington, Cambs, whose son, John Leete of Dodington, married a daughter of Robert Shute, Justice of the King's Bench.

The valuable information contained in the Chart referred to, will be found incorporated in the more extended pedigree of the Oakington Branch of the Leetes, at the end of this section.

It may here be mentioned that the Rev. Thomas Troughton Leete gave to his younger son, whose personal acquaintance the Author is happy to enjoy, the name of Robert Shute Leete.

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EXTRACTS FROM THE REGISTER OF THE  
PARISH CHURCH OF ST. JAMES', THRAPSTON.

**Baptisms.**

A.D.

1676. Elizabeth daughter of William & Elizabeth Leet, June 5.  
1677. Sarah Daughter of William & Elizabeth Leet, Septembr y<sup>e</sup> 3.  
1679. Mary daughter of William & Elizabeth Leet, Octo y<sup>e</sup> 24.  
1680. Mary daughter of Wi<sup>th</sup>. & Eliza<sup>b</sup> Leet, Nov<sup>r</sup> 18.  
1681. William : son of William and Elizabeth Leet, Janu<sup>y</sup> 2.  
1683. Dorothy Daughter of William & Eliza<sup>b</sup> Leet, March 6.  
1685. John son of William and Elizabeth Leet, Sep<sup>r</sup> 4.  
1687. Mary daughter of Wi<sup>th</sup> & Eliza<sup>b</sup> Leet. May 15.  
1692. Anna Merriah Daffther off M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Eliza Leete July y<sup>e</sup> 5.  
1694. Mary Daughter of M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> & Eliz. Leete, Decemb y<sup>e</sup> 4.  
1699. Benj<sup>a</sup> son off M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> & Eliz. Leete born Noubm 2 bapt 23.  
1704. Alce daughter of M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> & M<sup>rs</sup> Alce Leete born Aprill 7 bapt 21.  
1707. Elizabeth Daughter of Wi<sup>th</sup> & Alice Leet : Sept 29.  
1708. William son of William and Alice Leet : Nov : 17.  
1710. Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of John & Eliza : Leet, Apothecary. Aug. y<sup>e</sup> 30.  
171<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. John y<sup>e</sup> Son of John & Eliza : Leete, Jan : y<sup>e</sup> 19 : 171<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.  
1713. William y<sup>e</sup> son of John Leet, Apothecary, & Eliz : his wife, June y<sup>e</sup> 16.  
1716. Henry y<sup>e</sup> son of John Leet & Eliza : his wife, Sept. y<sup>e</sup> 21.  
1720. Anna Maria y<sup>e</sup> daughter of W<sup>m</sup> & Alice Leet, Nov<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 4.  
1750. Henry y<sup>e</sup> son of John & Susan Leet, born Aug. y<sup>e</sup> 3, Bapt. Sept. y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup>.  
1752. John y<sup>e</sup> son of John & Susannah Leet born Aug : y<sup>e</sup> 10. Bapt. Sept. y<sup>e</sup> 14.  
1775. John son of M<sup>r</sup> Henry Leete privately bap : Jan<sup>ry</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup>.  
1776. John son to Henery and Margaret Leet Baptizd Jan. 4.  
1776. Harryet Elizabeth Daughter to Henrery (*Sic*) and Margaret Leete. Dec. 26.  
1779. Hennery Son to Hennery and Margaret Leet, Aug. 18.  
1781. Mary Ann Daughter to Henery and Margaret Leet, April 26.  
1782. Wingfield son to Henry and Margaret Leet : Nov. 25.  
1784. Susanna Louisa Daughter to Henry and Margheret Leet. Baptiz<sup>d</sup> May : 17,  
aged 16 we<sup>ks</sup>.

A.D.

1786. Rosamond, Daughter of Henry & Margaret Leete, 10 August.  
 1791. Emma Sophia Daughter of Henry & Marg<sup>t</sup> Leete (bapt.) Feb. 15; born Oct. 18.  
 1805. Henry Harrabin son of Henry & Nancy Leete, born March 18 & Christened Aug. 21.  
 1809. Charles Ramsbottom son of Henry & Nancy Leete, born Oct. 2, & Christened Nov. 7.  
 1808. } John Griffiths son of Henry & Nancy Leete, born Aug. 2, 1808, &  
 1810. } Christened Aug. 28, 1810.  
 1814. Caroline aged 3 years 4 months (daur.) of Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon: July 26.  
 1814. William Griffith aged 1 year 6 m. (son) of Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon: July 26.  
 1814. Edward Stokes, aged 4 months (son of) Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon: July 26.  
 1816. Septimus Frederick (son of) Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon; June 17.  
 1818. Alfred Octavius (son of) Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon; June 23.  
 1819. Margaret Elizabeth (daur. of) Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon; Sept. 12.  
 1826. Thomas Griffith (son of) Henry & Nancy Leete, Thrapston, Surgeon; Sept. 5.

### Marriages.

1702. Mr W<sup>m</sup> Leette of this parish Juner & M<sup>rs</sup> Alce Winfield of Keston in Huntingdonsheer; Jan. 4.  
 1703. Same<sup>u</sup>ll Bran of Woodford & Sara Leette of Thrapston; July 1.  
 1726. Theodore Wickam & Mary Leet mar<sup>d</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. y<sup>e</sup> 16.  
 1804. Thomas Leete of the Parish of Islip, Farmer, & Frances Vorley of this Parish, married in this Church by licence, 12 Aug.  
 1806. John Baker Eland of this Parish & Louisa Susannah Leete of the same parish. Married by Licence 3<sup>rd</sup> July.  
 1827. John Leete and Eliza Page (of Thrapston); 26 Sept.

A.D.

1846. John Griffith Leete, Surgeon, Bachelor, & Elizabeth Hodson, Spinster, both of this parish ; 5 March.
1849. William Lifton Wynne of Stroud in Kent, Bachelor, in Holy Orders, & Augusta Harriet Leete, of this parish, 11<sup>th</sup> Sept.

### Burials.

1679. Mary daughter of William & Elizabeth Leet buried October y<sup>e</sup> 31.
1680. Mary daughter of Wiffi & Eliza Leet, bur. Nouemb. 27.
1687. Mary daughter of Wiff. and Eliza : Leet : Aug. 24.
1688. M<sup>r</sup> John Leette Ju<sup>n</sup>, ffeb 14.
1691. Mary, Wife off M<sup>r</sup> John Leete, Noumber 15.
1702. M<sup>r</sup> John Leete sener Jan. 17.
1704. M<sup>r</sup> W<sup>m</sup> Leete sen<sup>r</sup> ffeb. 11.
- 1711<sup>0</sup>. M<sup>rs</sup> Anna-Maria Leet of Woodford was Buryed in y<sup>e</sup> Parish Church, Feb<sup>r</sup>. y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>.
- 1711<sup>0</sup>. M<sup>rs</sup> Dorothy Leet of Woodford was Buryed in y<sup>e</sup> Parish in y<sup>e</sup> Chancel. Feb: y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>. Both dyed of y<sup>e</sup> Small Pox.
1716. Elizabeth y<sup>e</sup> Daughter of M<sup>r</sup>. John Leet & Elizabeth his wife, Aug: 22.
1725. M<sup>r</sup> William Leet, May y<sup>e</sup> 22.
1731. M<sup>rs</sup> Eliz. Leet, June: y<sup>e</sup> 10.
1734. M<sup>r</sup> John Leet, Sept y<sup>e</sup> 23.
1745. M<sup>rs</sup> Alice Leet, Oct. y<sup>e</sup> 13.
1748. Y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Henry Leet: July y<sup>e</sup> 30.
1763. Will<sup>m</sup> Leet: Feb. 7.
1773. John Leet: Dec. 11.
1774. John Leet younger: Jan. 12.
1775. John Leet an Infant: Jan. 12.
1802. M<sup>rs</sup> Margaret Leete, aged 51 of this Parish: Feb. 13.
1804. M<sup>r</sup> Henry Leete, Surgeon, aged 53 of this parish: Feb. 17.
1804. Mi<sup>ss</sup> Mary Ann Leete, aged 23 & 8 months, of this parish: Aug. 25.
1806. Mi<sup>ss</sup> Rosamond Leete, aged 19 years & 10 months, of this parish: Feb. 17.
1806. Mi<sup>ss</sup> Emma Leete, aged 15 years & 6 months, of this parish: June 11.
1815. Susan Leete, Thrapston, aged 91: May 31.
1819. George Augustus Leete, infant; Feb. 9.

A.D.

1826. Marian Leete, Thrapston, aged 4 : Sept. 22.  
 1828. Caroline Leete, Thrapston, aged 17 : Dec. 15.  
 1830. Henry Horabin Leete, Thrapston, aged 26 : March 2.  
 1853. Henry Leete of Clifton, n<sup>r</sup> Bristol, aged 74 : April 1.  
 1853. Nancy Leete, 13 Eden Road, Old Kent Rd, Surrey, aged 73 : Dec. 14.  
 1868. John Griffith Leete, Thrapston, aged 62 : Dec. 7.  
 1883. Benjamin Leete of Thrapston, aged 12 years : Aug. 14.  
 1884. Elizabeth Leete, High St. Thrapston, aged 67 : March 13.  
 1884. ? Jane Leete, Thrapston, aged 78 years : May 7.  
 1887. Septimus Frederick Leete, Thrapston, age 72 : March 22.

Affixed to inside wall of North Aisle of the Church is a black and white marble tablet, surmounted by the Leete Crest, bearing the following inscription :—

Sacred  
 to the Memory  
 of  
 JOHN GRIFFITH,  
 second son of Henry Leete, esq<sup>re</sup>  
 & of Nancy, his wife ;  
 Born 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 1808,  
 died December 2<sup>nd</sup> 1868.  
 Also of  
 ELIZABETH  
 wife of the above  
 who died March 9<sup>th</sup> 1884,  
 aged 67 years.

On same inner wall of North Aisle, another black and white marble tablet is inscribed thus :—

Sacred  
 to the Memory of  
 HENRY LEETE, Esq<sup>re</sup>  
 who died at Clifton near Bristol,  
 March 25<sup>th</sup> 1853,  
 aged 74 years.  
 Also of NANCY his widow,  
 who died at Camberwell, near London,  
 December 7<sup>th</sup> 1853,  
 Aged 72 years.  
 Their remains are deposited in the Family Vault  
 in this Churchyard.

On a large Memorial Slab attached to outside wall of West end of South Aisle, facing a spacious piece of ground inclosed with iron railing, this :—

Sacred to the Memory of  
Caroline, eldest daughter of  
Henry & Nancy Leete,  
obit December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1828 :  
ætat 18 years.

Mary Anne their youngest daughter  
obit September 19<sup>th</sup>, 1826 :  
ætat 4 years.

Thomas Elwyn & George Augustus,  
Died in their Infancy.

Also Sacred to the Memory of  
Henry Horrabin, eldest son of  
Henry & Nancy Leete,  
obit February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1830 ;  
ætat 26 years.

Also to the Memory of  
M<sup>rs</sup> Susannah Leete,  
Relict of the late John Leete,  
and Mother of the late Henry Leete,  
both Surgeons of this place,  
and interred within this Inclosure,  
who departed this life June 1815 :  
Ætat 90 years.

Also to the Memory of  
Thomas Griffith, youngest son of  
Henry & Nancy Leete,  
who was accidentally drowned  
on his passage from China,  
November 14<sup>th</sup>, 1844,  
Ætat 18 years.

A second tablet on the outside wall of Thrapston Parish Church records that :—

Within this enclosure are deposited the remains of—

Margaret Leete who died Feb<sup>y</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1802 : aged 51.

Henry Leete, Surgeon, died Feb<sup>y</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1804 : aged 55.

Also of their children :—

Harriott Elizabeth, died 24 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1804 : aged 27.

Mary Ann, died 22 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1804 : aged 24.

Rosamund, died Feb<sup>y</sup> 14, 1806 : aged 20.

Emma Sophia, died 9<sup>th</sup> June 1806 : aged 15.

Henry Leete, died 25 March 1853 : aged 74.

Nancy Leete, died Dec<sup>r</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1853 : aged 72.

On the side of the tablet is inscribed :—

This tablet was renewed by J. B. Leete, 1<sup>st</sup> June 1858.



THRAPSTON CHURCH.





**Will** of **WILLIAM LEETE** of **WOODFORD**, Co. **NORTHAMPTON**,  
A.D. 1706.

The Testator gives & bequeaths to his son **William Leete** his house & homestead, Orchards, Gardens & appurtenances situate in Thrapston in the County of Northampton, then lately purchased of Mr. Gibson & Mr. Jacob, to have & to hold upon condition that his said son & his heirs paid out of the same to the testator's wife Elizabeth Leet for and during all the time of her widowhood six pounds *per annum*. He gives and bequeaths to his said son **William & to his wife Elizabeth Leet** All his houses & lands with their appurtenances situate in Woodford & Denford or Adington; and all his houses, lands & tenements in Southoe & Dodington, Co. Hunts.; & also All his houses, lands & tenements in Spaldwick & Easton in Huntingdonshire; & likewise all his goods chattels and credits of every description in trust, to be sold to the best advantage & the proceeds thereof applied towards the maintenance of his wife, & education of his younger children, & for the payment of his just debts, etc., and the following portions or legacies:—to his daughter **Elizabeth Leete** “ffourscore pounds”: to his younger children, **John, Michael, Benjamin, Dorothy, Anna Maria, & Mary** the sum of one hundred & ninety pounds apiece, of which one hundred & seventy pounds, part thereof, was to be paid when they successively attained the age of two & twenty, & the remaining twenty pounds on the death of their mother.

The testator names his daughter **Sarah Brawne**. He leaves his granddaughter **Alice Leete** ten pounds; and desires that all the legacies given in & by the last Will & Testament of his father **John Leete**, deceased, shall be “well and truly paid.” He gives to the poor of Thrapston forty shillings. Appoints his said son **William & wife Elizabeth** his executors. Power is given the Executors to send his son **Benjamin** to the University in order to “make him fitt for a Clergyman or a Divine,” & in that case they might detain one hundred pounds, part of his legacy, & therewith repay themselves expenses incurred.

*The Will bears date 24 Jan. 1704. Witnesses, Mark Phelips, Elizabeth Batman, Edm. Bramston. Proved in London 13 April, 1706.*

[William Leete, of whose Will the above is an Abstract, was the son of John Leete of Midlow Grange, who was grandson of

Thomas Leete of Oakington, Cambs. William's birth is recorded in the Register of Southoe as having occurred on September 19th, 1651. In the Visitation of Hunts, 1684, he is described as of Thrapston in Northampt, and about 31 years of age. Although officially denominated the "Will of William Leete of Woodford," the Testator before naming Woodford and his other estates in Southoe, Dodington or elsewhere, distinctly refers to "his house and homestead, orchards, gardens and appurtenances situate in Thrapston in the County of Northampton, then lately purchased." He mentions his "father John Leete deceased"; and from his expressed desire that all the legacies named in his father's Will shall be "well and truly paid," it may be inferred that he was his father's executor.

The burial of William Leete took place at Thrapston, on February 11th, 1704. Elizabeth, his wife, died in 1731. Their four sons, William, John, Michael, Benjamin; and five daughters, Elizabeth, Sarah, Dorothy, Anna Maria, and Mary, are all named in their father's Will; power being given to the Executors to send the youngest son, Benjamin, to the University, in order that he might become a clergyman.]

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**Will of WILLIAM LEETE of THRAPSTON, Gentleman, A.D. 1725.**

All his Estate at Thrapston, in the County of Northampton, which he purchased of Mr. Smith of Norfolk, and one pasture ground at Keystone, Co. Hunts., commonly called y<sup>e</sup> Hallyard and also one piece of ground adjoining thereto lately an Orchard, & also one pickle or parcel of ground adjoining to the said orchard, and divided therefrom by a brook, and with a Dove-house standing thereon, in Easton, Co. Hunts., the Testator gives & bequeaths to the Rev<sup>d</sup>. H. Lee, D.D., Rector of Tichmarsh, co. Northampton; the Rev<sup>d</sup>. W<sup>m</sup>. Foster, Clerk, R<sup>r</sup> of Thrapston; & his brother Benj<sup>n</sup>.

Leete, of Twiwell, Northampt.: In trust, for payment of his debts, and the raising of portions for his children. His Estate in Keystone, consisting of arable land, he gives to his **Wife Alice Leete** and after her decease to his **son Wingfield Leete**. He also gives his Wife a life interest in two tenements in Thrapston, which, after her decease, were to be sold by his Trustees, and the proceeds applied towards augmenting his children's portions, to be paid to them in equal shares on their respectively attaining the age of twenty-one years.

The Testator settles a life-annuity of twelve pounds on his **mother Elizabeth Leete**. Gives his **daughter Mary Leete** the furniture of the room wherein she lies, and the silver cup which he last bought; to his **daughter Elizabeth** a silver salver; to his **daughters Dorothy, and Anna**, each, two large silver spoons; and to his **son Wingfield**, two guns and two pistols. The residue of his estate, effects, credits, monies and chattels he gives to his **Wife Alice Leete**, and he appoints her sole Executrix of his Will.

*Dated 8<sup>th</sup> May 1725. Witnesses: John Hargreaves, John Hales, James Kempston. Proved 16<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1725.*

[This William Leete of Thrapston, Gentleman, was the eldest son of the last-named William Leete of Thrapston, and Elizabeth his wife. According to the Register of that Parish, he was baptized, 2nd January, 1681; married to Alice Wingfield of Keston, 4th January, 1702; and interred at Thrapston, 22nd May, 1725. In his Will he names his mother Elizabeth Leete, and his brother Benjamin Leete of Twiwell, whom he appoints one of his Trustees. Alice, his wife; his son Wingfield Leete; and his four daughters, Mary, Elizabeth, Dorothy and Anna, are also all named by the Testator.]

---

**Will of JOHN LEETE of THRAPSTON, A.D. 1735.**

He commits his body to the earth to be interred as near as may be to his loving wife; without show or pomp, instead whereof the testator gives to the poor of Thrapston ten pounds. He gives to his younger **son Henry** five hundred & thirty pounds, & charges his estate for the payment of it & all his just debts.

This done & other legacies mentioned in his will paid, the testator devises all his estate real & personal to his two eldest sons, **John & William Leete**, by equal shares. He desires that during the time of his son **Henry's** non-residence at Cambridge he should make the house in which the testator was then living his home, at the cost & charge of his two eldest sons, or else they were to pay him a sum not exceeding ten pounds a year for two or three years next after his going to College. He gives to the said Henry a diamond ring, the bequest of his mother to him.

He gives to Widow Throsely, who lived with Mr. Austin at the Red Lyon in Thrapston, two pounds & ten shillings; to Henry Newman, Currier of Thrapston, fifteen pounds; to Mr. Caldicot an Orange merchant in Botolph Lane, London; to Mr. Noon "ffather of Tho: Noon a Surgeon that dyed at Ghent in Flanders"; to Mr. James Kempston & James Bolney of Little Addington other small legacies. For the debt due to him from his brother **Miles Leete** he directs his Executors to take a Note from him for the same not payable till after his decease. The testator was averse to hat-bands & gloves being used at his funeral, & "would have his coffin made plain without any nails." His shroud was to be of coarse crape; no pall laid over his coffin, & six carriers, whom he named were "to bear him to the Church, for so doing they shall have half a crown apiece."

He appoints his two eldest sons Executors and residuary legatees, & nominates the Rev. Dr. Lee, Rector of Tichmarsh Trustee and Supervisor.

*Proved at London, P.C.C., 7th May 1735.*

[John Leete was the second son of the first William Leete of Thrapston, and Elizabeth his wife. He followed the medical profession. Mention is made in the Will of his brother Miles (Michael) Leete. The testator left three sons, John, William, and Henry, whose baptisms are recorded in Thrapston Parish Register. At the time of his father's decease, Henry, the youngest son, was student of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1737. The Thrapston Register gives 1748 as the date of the burial of "y<sup>e</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup>. Mr. Henry Leet."]

*Wills proved in Consistory & Archdeaconry Court of Northampton.*

A.D.

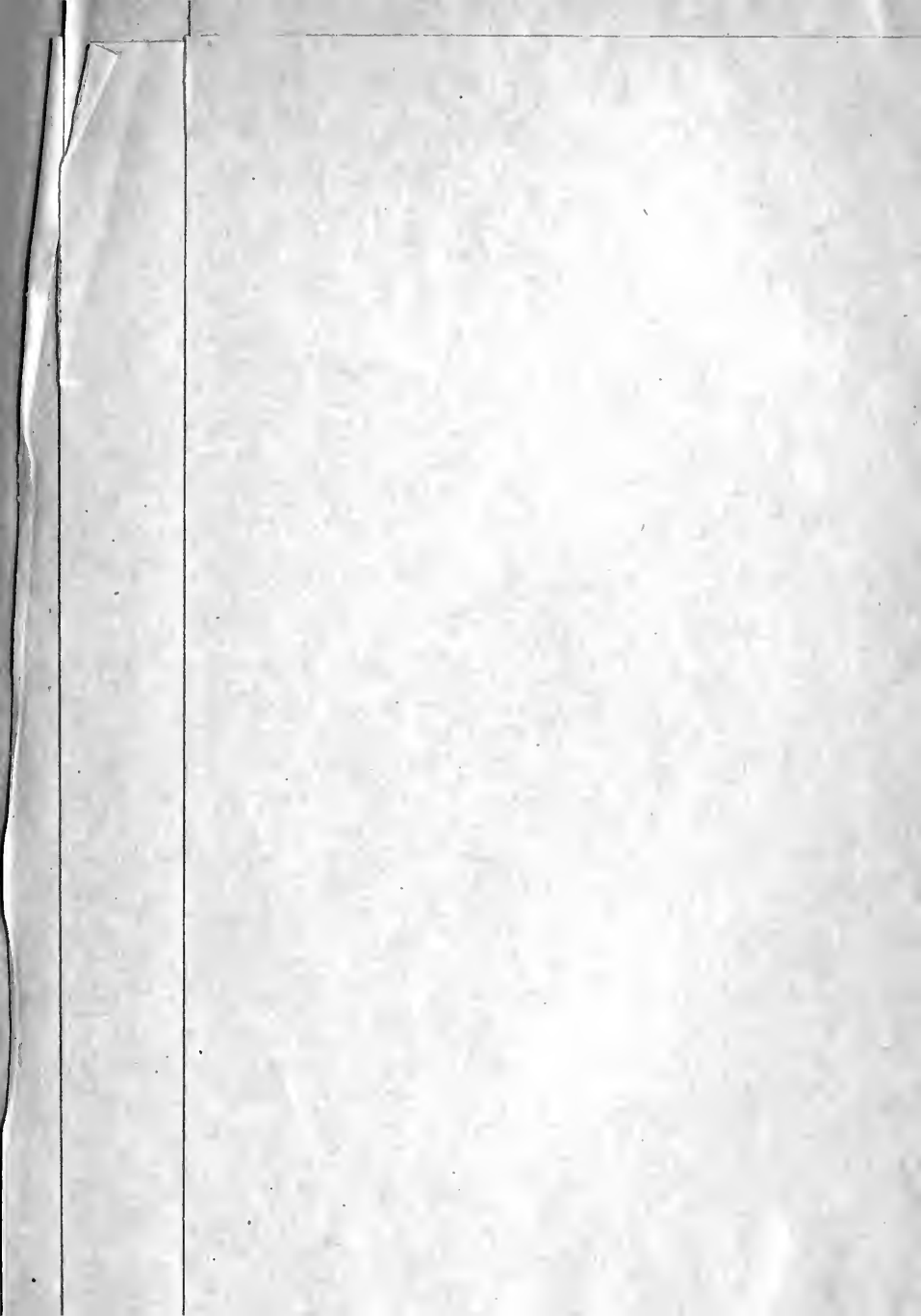
1794. **Leete, W<sup>m</sup>.** 12 April. Twywell.  
 1804 **Leete, Henry,** 1 August. Thrapston.  
 1823. **Leete, W<sup>m</sup>,** 11 March. Islip.

*Administrations granted: same Court.*

1748. **Henry Leet,** Clerk. Adm. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. Clapton.  
 1750. **Benj. Leete.** Adm. 15<sup>th</sup> Sept. Twywell.  
 1845. **Tho<sup>s</sup>. Griffith Leete.** Adm. 12<sup>th</sup> May, Thrapstone.
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*In the annexed Chart are given, in their proper sequence, the names of the Leetes of Oakington, Southoe, Thrapston, etc.*



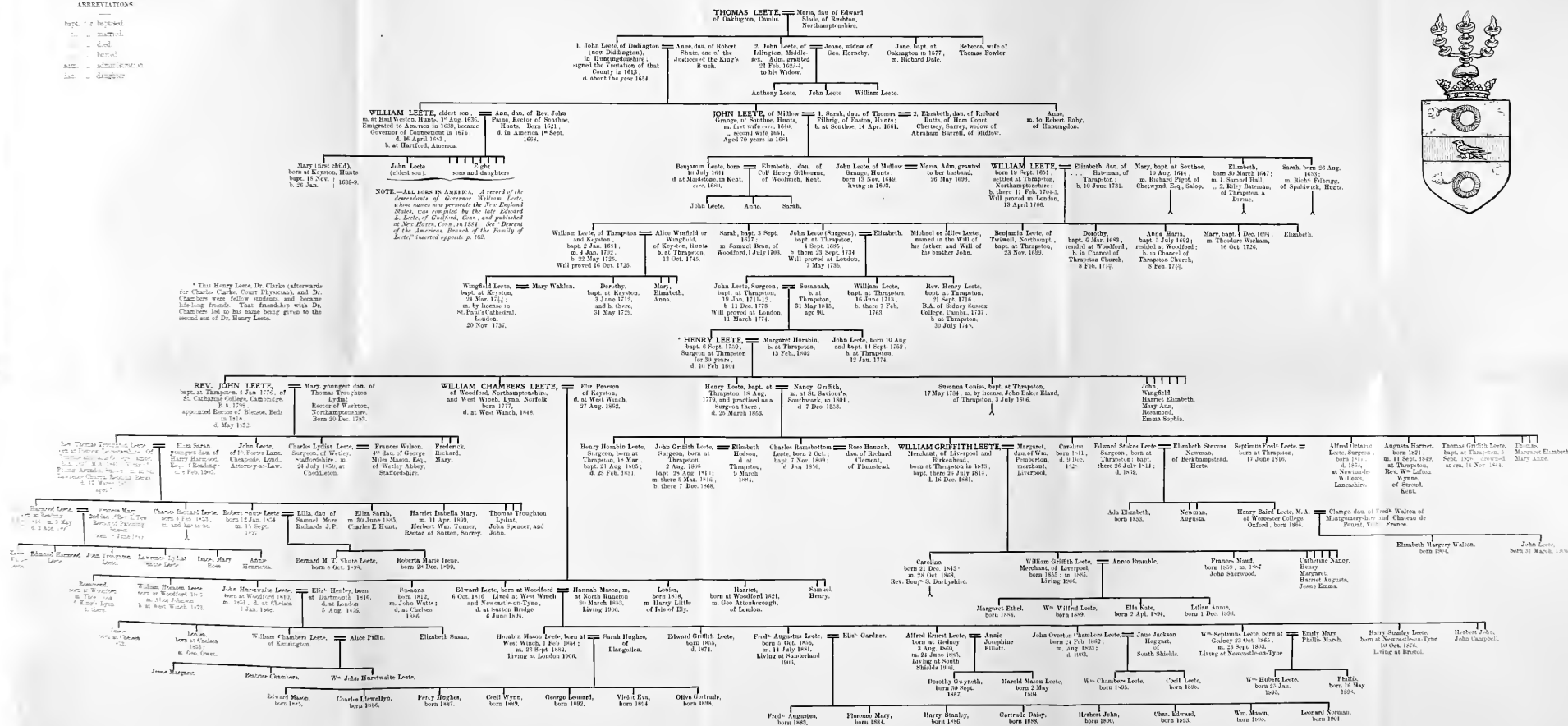






#### ABBREVIATIONS

hope	= hoped.
wait	= waited.
die	= died.
burn	= burnt.
begin	= began.
begin	= commenced.
begin	= commenced.





THE AMERICAN BRANCH  
OF THE  
FAMILY OF LEETE.

WILLIAM LEETE,  
ONE OF THE  
 FIRST SETTLERS OF GUILFORD, CONN.,  
AND  
 Governor of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies, U.S.A.

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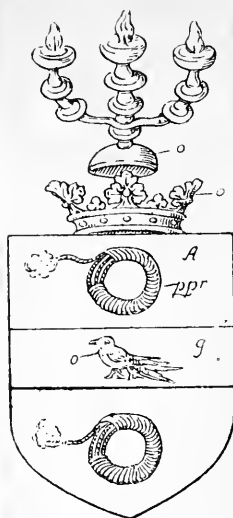
For facility of reference the pedigree of Governor William Leete, and of his immediate descendants, has been set forth on the following *Table*. It will be seen from the Visitation of Hunts, in 1613, that he was then an infant; and at that date the only child of John Leete and Anne his wife, née Shute. William's father was the son of Thomas Leete of Oakington, Cambs.

The next authentic record we have of William Leete is that of his marriage with Ann Paine in the Parish Church of Hail Weston: *See page 146.*

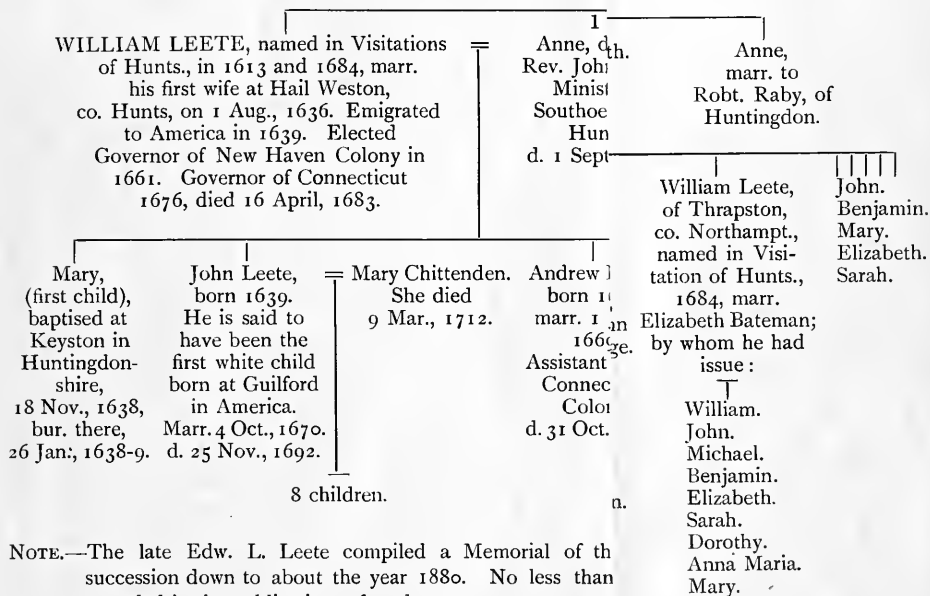
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We have found no further intelligence in England concerning him until we come to the Visitation of Hunts, in 1684. In that record, signed by his brother John Leete of Midlow Grange, occurs this reference to him:—" *William Leete, eldest son, Governour of Harford in New England, now living 1684 as is supposed æt. 71.*"

## DESCENT OF THE A



John Leete, of Dodington,  
Hunts., named in Visitations  
of Hunts., in 1613 and 1684.  
Baptd. at Oakington,  
13 May, 1575.  
Died about Dec., 1648.



WILLIAM LEETE,  
ONE OF THE  
 FIRST SETTLERS OF GUILFORD, CONN.,  
AND  
 Governor of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies, U.S.A.

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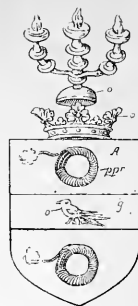
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# DESCENT OF THE AMERICAN BRANCH OF THE FAMILY OF LEETE.

## PEDIGREE OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM LEETE.



Thomas Leete, of  
Oakington and Comberton.  
Assessed to the Subsidy for  
Cambridgeshire in 1522-23.  
Buried at Oakington, 9 July, 1564.

Alse  
bur. at  
Oakington,  
3 Feb., 1566.

Thomas Leete, marr. at Oakington,  
12 Nov., 1568.  
Assessed to the Subsidy for Cambs.  
in 1566-67, and in 1571-72.  
Bur. at Oakington, 4 Feb., 1582.

Thomas Leete, of Oakington,  
Cambs., named in Visitation of  
Huntingdonshire in 1613.  
Marr. 2 June, 1574.  
Churchwarden of Oakington in 1598.  
Bur. there, 12 Nov., 1616.

Maria, daur. of  
Edw. Slade, of  
Rushton, co.  
Northampton.  
Bur. at Oakington,  
25 Sept., 1610.

John Leete, of Doddington,  
Hunts., named in Visitations  
of Hunts. in 1613 and 1684.  
Bapt. at Oakington,  
13 May, 1575.  
Died about Dec., 1648.

Ann,  
daur. of Robert Shute,  
one of the Justices of the  
King's Bench.  
Living in 1650.

John Leete, of Islington,  
named in Visitations of  
Hunts. in 1613 and 1684.  
marr. and left issue.  
*See his Will, p. 136-7.*

Richard Leete, Churchwarden of  
Oakington in 1612, 13, 14, and 1615.  
Granted Administration of the goods  
of his father, 7 Dec., 1616. Marr.  
at Oakington, 17 Jan., 1617. Assessed  
to Subsidy for Oakington in 1620  
and 1625. Bur. there, 19 May, 1629.

Elizabeth or  
Isabella Rogers.  
She was bur.  
at Oakington,  
3 Sept., 1617.

WILLIAM LEETE, named in Visitations  
of Hunts. in 1613 and 1684, marr.  
his first wife at Hall Weston,  
co. Hunts. on 1 Aug., 1636. Emigrated  
to America in 1639. Elected  
Governor of New Haven Colony in  
1661. Governor of Connecticut  
1676, died 16 April, 1683.

1 Anne, daur. of  
Rev. John Paine,  
Minister of  
Southree, in co.  
Hunts.  
d. 1 Sept., 1668.

2 Sarah, widow of  
Henry Rutherford.  
She died  
10 Feb., 1673.

3 Mary, widow,  
1. Of Gov. Francis Newman.  
2. Rev. Nicholas Street.  
She died 13 Dec., 1683.

John Leete,  
of Midlow Grange,  
named in the Visitation  
of Hunts., 1684,  
which he signed.

1 Sarah, daur. of  
Thomas Filbrigg,  
of Easton,  
co. Hunts.

2 Elizabeth.

Anne,  
marr. to  
Robt. Raby, of  
Huntingdon.

Mary,  
(first child),  
baptised at  
Keyston in  
Huntingdon-  
shire,  
18 Nov., 1638.  
bur. there,  
26 Jan., 1638-9.

John Leete,  
born 1639.  
He is said to  
have been the  
first white child  
born at Guilford  
in America.  
Marr. 4 Oct., 1670.  
d. 25 Nov., 1692.

8 children.

Mary Chittenden.  
She died  
9 Mar., 1712.

Andrew Leete,  
born 1543,  
marr. 1 June,  
1669.  
Assistant in the  
Connecticut  
Colony.  
d. 31 Oct., 1702.

6 children.

Elizabeth  
Jordan,  
d. 1701.

William Leete,  
Deputy from  
Guilford to the  
General Court,  
d. 1 June, 1687.

a daur.

Mary Fenn.

Abigail,  
marr. Rev. J.  
Woodbridge.

Caleb Leete,  
born 1651,  
d. 1673.

Gratiana,  
born 1653.

Peregrine,  
b. 1658,  
d. young.

Joshua,  
b. 1659,  
d. 1660.

Anna,  
b. 1661,  
marr. John  
Trowbridge.

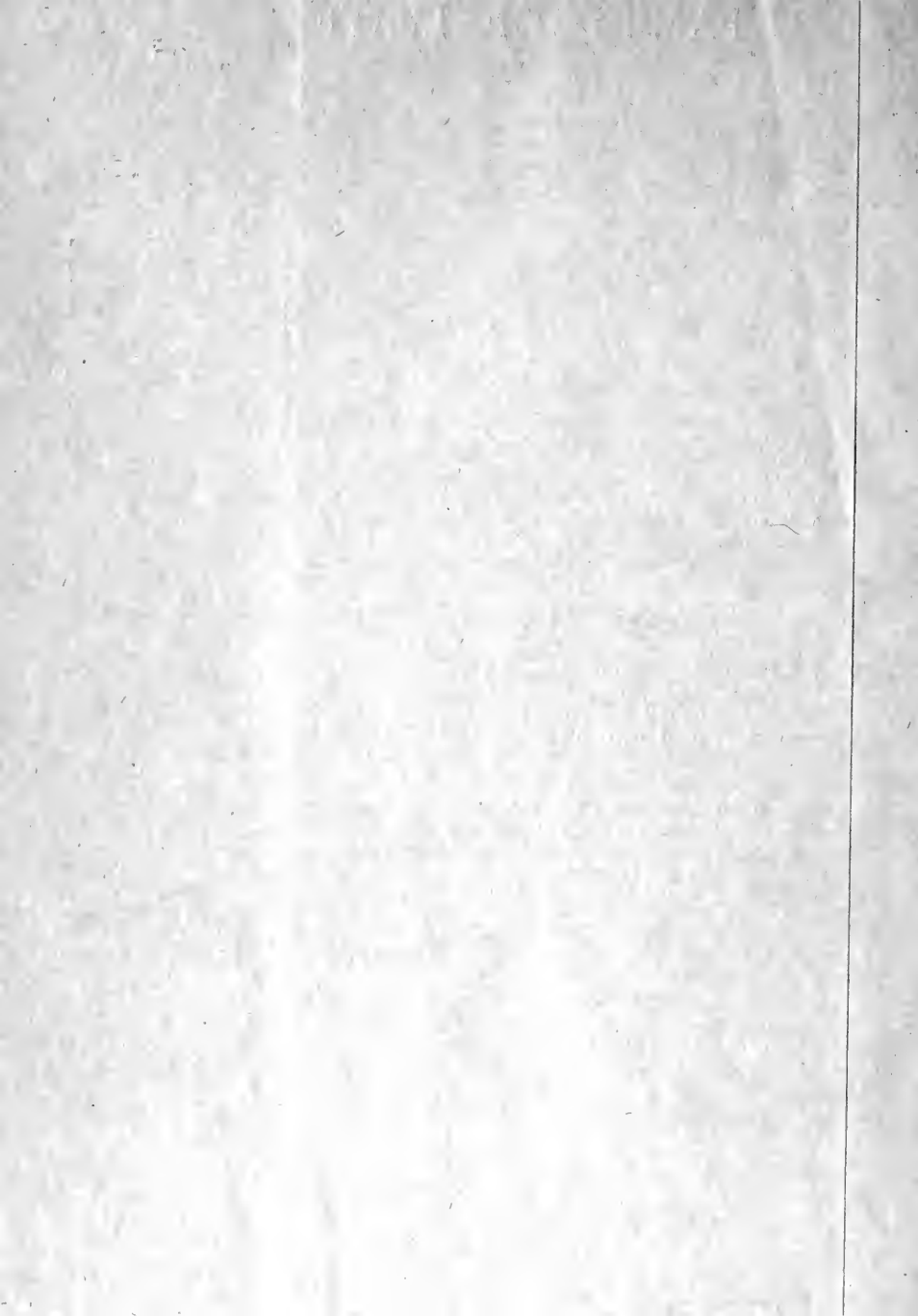
2 children.

William Leete,  
of Thrapston,  
co. Northampton,  
named in Visitation  
of Hunts.,  
1684, marr.  
Elizabeth Bateman;  
by whom he had  
issue:

William.  
John.  
Michael.  
Benjamin.  
Elizabeth.  
Sarah.  
Dorothy.  
Anna Maria.  
Mary.

NOTE.—The late Edw. L. Leete compiled a Memorial of the descendants of Governor William Leete, by families, in genealogical  
succession down to about the year 1850. No less than 1,074 direct descendants of Governor Leete, bearing his surname, are  
recorded in the publication referred to.





In the absence of any definite information as to the family origin and marriage of Governor William Leete, Judge Ralph Smith of Guilford, U.S.A., addressed the following letter to the Rector of Keyston :—

GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY,  
CONNECTICUT, UNITED STATES,  
*3rd of February, 1866.*

To the RECTOR OF THE PARISH OF  
KEYSTON, HUNTS, ENGLAND.

REV. SIR,—I hope you will excuse the necessity which forces me to apply to you, to obtain information, as I suppose, from your parish.

Gov<sup>r</sup>. William Leete, who was one of the most worthy of the founders of New England, came from Keyston (or Keystone), the last place of his residence in England, in 1639, to Guilford, and I have supposed it to have been the place of his birth. He was born about 1611, and was married to a wife, in England, whose Christian name was Anne ——— (I do not know her other name), before he left England, but his eldest child, John Leete, was the first white person born in this place.

He was a man of education, “bred a lawyer, and was a Registrar or Clerk of the Bishop’s (I suppose of Ely’s) Court, at Cambridge,” where he became a Puritan, and joined a company of young men who came with Rev. Henry Whitfield, who had been Rector of Okely, in Surry, from London to Guilford, 1639. They were all *young* men, of education, and formed a little community here by themselves, for a while, entirely *independent*.

The magistrate of their Municipality was Samuel Disborow, Esq., the 5<sup>th</sup> son of James Disborow, Esq., of Eltisley, in Cambridgeshire, and was a brother of John Disborow, who married Jane, sister of the Protector, Oliver Cromwell.

Our Samuel Disborow was born at Eltisley, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1619, and returned to England 1651. He was soon after a Member of Parliament for Mid Lothian, in Scotland, and in 1656 became Keeper of the Great Seal for Scotland, which office he held until the Restoration, when he retired to his Manor in Ellsworth, Cambridgeshire.

Another of this company, Rev. John Hoadley, born at Rolvenden, in Kent, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, 1616–17, afterwards returned to England 1654, and was a Chaplain to General Monck, and was the grandfather of Rev. Benj<sup>n</sup>. Hoadley, Bishop successively of Bangor, Litchfield, Salisbury and Winchester.

But it is of Governor *William Leete* of whom I wish to enquire. On the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 1639, he executed an agreement, by indenture, with one Edward Jones, a resident of Northamptonshire, in which the latter agreed to serve M<sup>r</sup>. Leete, in New England, for which they were about embarking, three years as a house builder. In this instrument M<sup>r</sup>. Leete describes himself as “of Keystone, Hunts,” &c. This paper I found recently, among the papers of the Massachusetts Hist. Soc., at Boston.

Subsequently, I find Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete connected with an ancient Bill of Exchange, drawn in favour of a Mr. John Leete, probably a relative of Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete, of Midlow, an adjoining parish to Keystone, I think, in Huntingdonshire. This Bill of Exchange was dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, 1666.

Mr. William Leete was the first Secretary or Clerk of Guilford, and afterwards was Clerk and then Magistrate of our Court, then Clerk or Secretary of the Court and Colony of New Haven. Subsequently he was Lieut-Gov<sup>r</sup>. and Gov<sup>r</sup>. of that Jurisdiction.

After the union of New Haven with Connecticut, Mr. Leete became one of the Council, then Lieut.-Gov<sup>r</sup>. and afterwards Governor of the United Colony, which office he held until his death, April 16th, 1683.

He was also, for a long time, President of the Congress of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England.

In all these important trusts he evinced the highest wisdom, coolness, and discretion, through a period of our early existence, rendered eminently perilous by the Indian wars of King Philip of Pokanoket.

I wish for information respecting Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete, his origin, birth, or baptism, and his family origin, and marriage, purely for historical and biographical purposes. I have spent some time in preparing a history of the town of Guilford, and I have undertaken to write an article on the life and character of Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete.

Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete left a numerous family of descendants, who have, many of them, been distinguished in New England.

The recent publication of the Winthrop family papers, which contain many new letters of Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete, has given an additional interest to his life and character.

I hope I shall not cause you any additional or especial inconvenience, by this request, and if you will furnish such information as you may have at hand, or on your parish records, I shall esteem it a great favour, or any information relative to the points indicated will be gratefully received.

You can hardly conceive the deep interest, which we feel on this side of the Atlantic, in all matters of local interest connected with our derivation from the mother country.

Among the companions of William Leete were two brothers, William Stone and John Stone, of nearly his own age, I suppose from your shire.

I would send *postage* but cannot. Please direct to me at Guildford, postage *not* prepaid.

Very respectfully, your obedient Servant,

RALPH D. SMITH.

Should I be able to reciprocate the favour asked in America I shall be happy.

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The Rector of Keyston, not having been able to furnish the required information, forwarded Judge Smith's letter to Mr. Wm. Griffith Leete, of Liverpool; who, at that time, was head of the Thrapston branch of the family. Unable, likewise, to give the necessary reply, this gentleman placed the letter carefully aside; where it remained unanswered until, long afterwards, it came into the hands of the Author of this work. The following communication from the Hon. Lewis H. Steiner shows how deeply it was regretted that the much desired information did not reach America until after the decease of Judge Smith:—

GUILFORD, NEW HAVEN COUNTY,  
CONNECTICUT, U.S., Aug. 27th, 1875.

Mr. JOSEPH LEETE,

SIR,—Your letter of 19th June, addressed to my father-in-law, Ralph D. Smith, Esq., is herewith acknowledged. It would have gratified him exceedingly to have received it, as he took the greatest interest in tracing out the genealogies of the old families of Guilford, and was especially interested in all that concerned the Leete family,—but his labors ceased on the 11th of September last. He has left a large number of historical and genealogical manuscripts, some of which I shall try to have printed as soon as I can secure time to edit the same. With the view of satisfying the demand here, it is possible that we will publish next year a volume with the title "Contributions to the History of Guilford." I copy from this work the notice it contains of Gov. Leete for your use. In his Genealogy of Guilford families, he gives Gov. Leete's descendants with great minuteness, numbering *hundreds*, but seems to have been foiled in tracing his ancestors.

I shall be very happy to hear from you on the points mentioned in Mr. Smith's letter, and to supply such information as may be desired by you, so far as practicable.

It may be pleasant to know that the Leetes, although numerous, are highly esteemed for their inflexible honesty and integrity.

Very respectfully,

Your obed<sup>t</sup>. servant,

LEWIS H. STEINER.

---

*Subjoined is the Notice of Gov<sup>r</sup>. Leete referred to in the foregoing Letter.*

"William Leete, also one of the first settlers of the town and one of the pillars of Mr. Whitfield's Church, received the highest honors which the Colony of New Haven and, after the union of that Colony with Connecticut, which the united government could give.

He was bred to the law in England, and served as a clerk for a considerable time in the Bishop's Court at Cambridge, where observing the oppression and cruelties then practised on the conscientious and virtuous Puritans, he was led to examine more thoroughly their doctrines and practice, and eventually to become a Puritan himself, and to give up his office. Coming over to New England with M<sup>r</sup>. Whitfield, he enjoyed his religion, and had an opportunity to serve his brethren in his station, for which his abilities and education happily fitted him. From 1651 until 1658 he was the Magistrate of the Town, and one of the Court of Magistrates for the Jurisdiction of the New Haven Colony for a much longer period. In 1658 he was chosen Deputy-Governor, and continued in that office until 1661, when he was elected Governor of the Colony, which dignity he held until the union with Connecticut in 1664. Upon this union he was elected Magistrate, and then in Connecticut, from 1669 until 1676, Deputy-Governor, when he was chosen Governor, which office he held until his death. 'For forty years,' says Doctor Trumbull, 'he was Magistrate, Deputy-Governor, or Governor of one or other of the Colonies. In both Colonies he presided in times of the greatest difficulty, yet always conducted himself with such integrity and wisdom as to meet the public approbation.' He was the Chief Magistrate of the County Court of New Haven County after its formation in 1664, and held that office until his removal to Hartford on his election to the office of Governor. After that time he remained there, managing the affairs of the government of the whole Colony until his death, April 16th, 1683, full of days and full of honors. His tombstone was discovered somewhere about 1830, on removing some earth that had been allowed to accumulate in the ancient burial yard of that place.

"Governor Leete left a numerous family in Guilford, where many of his descendants still remain, while others have removed to other parts of the State. His eldest son John, who died Nov. 25, 1692, aged about 53, is said to have been the first white person born in Guilford. . . . The stone cellar in which the Governor kindly secreted and nourished Generals Whalley and Goffe (the regicides) still remains. It is on the west side of the Borough, near the bank of West River, and is on the property formerly owned by Timothy Stone, Esq., and now by his daughters."

*From R. D. Smith's MSS. History of Guilford.*

William Leete was one of the signers of the Plantation Covenant on shipboard. In this instrument the emigrants bound themselves by the following words:—

"We, whose names are hereunder written, intending by God's gracious permission to plant ourselves in New England, and, if it may be, in the southerly part, about Quinnipiack: We do faithfully promise, each to each, for ourselves and families, and those that belong to us; that we will, the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one intire plantation; and to be helpful each to the other in every common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require; and we promise not to desert or leave each other or the



ST. MARY-THE-GREAT, CAMBRIDGE.

*The Chamber in which the Bishop of Ely's Court was held, when Wm. Leete officiated as Registrar, occupied the West end of the North aisle of the church; and is visible above on the left hand side of the tower.*



plantation, but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company who have entered into this engagement.

As for our gathering together in a Church way, and the choice of officers and members to be joined together in that way, we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, the first day of June, 1639."

Robert Kitchell.	John Stone.	Thomas Norton.
John Bishop.	William Plane.	Abraham Cruttenden.
Francis Bushnell.	Richard Gutridge.	Francis Chatfield.
William Chittenden.	John Hughes.	William Halle.
William Leete.	Wm. Dudley.	Thomas Naish.
Thomas Joanes.	John Parmelin.	Henry Kingsnorth.
John Jurdon.	John Mephram.	Henry Doude.
William Stone.	Henry Whitfield.	Thomas Cooke.
John Hoadly.		

Twenty-five signatures are attached to the document, including that of William Leete.

The little community arrived at New Haven about July 10th. When they had agreed upon a site suitable for their settlement William Leete was one of six selected to purchase the land of the native Indians, in trust for the projected plantation. The spot chosen was a well-watered valley, partly surrounded by low hills; the pleasant aspect of which, recalling to the memories of many of these emigrants the scenery of that old England they had come from, they named the place Guilford, after the County-town of Surrey.

The land on which nearly all the present town of Guilford is built was originally purchased by the English emigrants from Shaumpishuh, the Indian sachem-squaw or queen of Menunkatuck; with consent of the Indians there inhabiting. The articles given in exchange for this tract were, twelve coats, twelve fathoms of



wampum, twelve glasses (mirrors), twelve pairs of shoes, twelve hatchets, twelve pairs of stockings, twelve hoes, four kettles, twelve knives, twelve hats, twelve porringers, twelve spoons, and two English coats. The sachem-squaw professed herself to be fully paid and satisfied; and the Indians agreed to remove. The English settlement then commenced.



*Front and North side of the Old Stone House erected by Wm. Leete, A.D. 1639.*

When the lands were surveyed and laid out for individual ownership, Mr. Leete acquired a lot at the north corner of what are now Broad and River Streets. The site overlooks the Menunkatuck river as it winds through green meadows reclaimed from the sea. Here he built himself a substantial residence with an adjoining store, under which was a commodious cellar. His outlying lands, consisting of about two hundred and fifty acres, were situate some distance off; they appear to have been once surrounded by water. This portion of Guilford is now known as *Leete's Island*, the lands having been owned and occupied by Leetes almost exclusively down to the present generation.

The following Notes are reprinted from the first Edition of "*The Family of Leete.*"





GRAVE AND MONUMENT OF GOVERNOR WILLIAM LEETE.

"William Leete came to New England with Eaton and Hopkins in 1639. He signed the Plantation Covenant of New Haven Colony, 1st June, 1639, was an Assistant there for fifteen years, from 1643 to 1657; Deputy Governor in 1658, and Governor from 1661 to 1665. On the union of the Colony with Connecticut he was chosen an Assistant, and in 1669 Deputy Governor. On the decease of Winthrop, in 1676, he succeeded him as Governor, and was annually re-elected to that office until his death, in 1683. When the regicides, Goffe and Whalley, sought refuge in New England, in 1660, Leete exerted himself for their protection."—*Editorial note to the Winthrop Papers, Massachusetts Historical Society's Collections, 4th Series, Vol. 7, which contains many of Leete's letters, with a fac-simile of his signature, and a copy of his seal.*

Signature and Seal of  
Governor Leete.




"Leit, Wm., Esq., Gov. Con<sup>t</sup>. Col., dyed Apr. 16, 1683." Entry in Note Book of Judge Sewell.—*New Eng. Hist. & Gen<sup>t</sup>. Register*, vol. 8, p. 19.

"Leete (April, 1683). Died, the Hon. Wm. Leet, Gov<sup>r</sup>. of Connecticut in y<sup>e</sup> 72 or 73 year of his age. Tho' he was ancient, yet had it pleased God he might have continued many years. His death is an awfull breach espec. at this juncture."—From *Bradstreet's Journal*.

In Treasurer John Talcott's Account Book, preserved in the State Library, Hartford, under date April 18th, 1683, occurs this charge to Connecticut Colony:—

"To *II pound of powder for the Great Guns at Gov<sup>r</sup> leet's funerall*,  
lb 01 : 07 : 06."

Governor Leete was interred at the rear of the First Church of Hartford. In the same churchyard, close to where the old tombstone has been re-fixed, the descendants of the present generation of this distinguished Anglo-American have erected a handsome obelisk of granite to his memory.

On Independence Day (July 4th) at a celebration, held at Woodstock, Connecticut, in the year 1883, among the exercises was a Poem, read by Rev. Dr. Leonard W. Bacon, of Norwich, Conn. In this, speaking of "the Independence men Before the Independence Day," he introduces these stanzas :—

And tell of Guilford's William Leete,  
 Who stretched the State's right arm to hide  
 In many a wilderness retreat  
 The vengeance hunted regicide,  
 And told the bearers of the ban,  
 Signed and broad sealed "that tender thing  
 The conscience of an honest man,  
 Is full as royal as a King."

The reference is to the answer given by the Governor to the royal pursuivants; "We honor His Majesty, but we have tender consciences."

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## EXTRACTS FROM THE CALENDAR OF STATE PAPERS

Preserved in the Public Record Office, London, relating to WILLIAM LEETE,  
 Governor of Connecticut.

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A.D. 1661. "Governor Endecott's instructions to Thos. Kirke and Thos.  
 March 6. Kellond, sent to the Governor of Connecticut and Deputy Governor  
 of New Haven jurisdiction. To deliver the several letters to John  
 Winthrop, Governor of Connecticut, and **Wm. Leete**, Deputy Governor of New  
 Haven jurisdiction, with enclosed copies of letter from the King (Charles II.) to  
 the Governor of New England. To declare that the Governor and Council of  
 the Massachusetts jurisdiction met in March last, before the King's pleasure was  
 otherwise known than by Proclamation, and issued their warrants for apprehending  
 Edward Whalley and William Goffe, that so they might testify to the

world how much they abhorred to entertain or conceal such persons, declared to stand convicted of having a hand in the execrable murder of the late King. To desire them to have thorough search made for Whalley and Goffe," etc.

[*Colonial Series, America and W. Indies*, Vol. XV., Nos. 48, 49.]

A.D. 1661. "Thos. Kellond and Thos. Kirke to Governor Endecott.  
 May 29, They left Boston on 7th May, arrived at Hartford the 10th and  
 Boston. gave Gov. Winthrop his letter and the King's order for apprehending Colonels Whalley and Goffe, who said they did not stay there but went directly for New Haven, one Symon Lodell guiding them; the Gov. carried himself very nobly to them and promised all diligent search should be made after them, which was afterwards performed. Arrived at Guilford 11th May; the Deputy Gov. **William Leete** said he had not seen the two Colonels in nine weeks. Information from Dennis Scranton that Whalley and Goffe were harboured in the house of one Davenport, a minister in New Haven; that one Goodman, Bishop of the town of Guilford, was able to give the like account, and that **Deputy Leete** knew as much. Account of the delays they met with, and their supposition that **Leete** was unwilling to assist in the apprehension of Whalley and Goffe, but wished to give them time to escape, 'he wished he had been a ploughman and had never been in the office, since he found it so weighty,'" etc.

[*Colonial Papers*, Vol. XV., No. 59.]

A.D. 1663. "[Mr. Hooke? minister] to [Davenport, at Boston, New  
 March 2. England]. Detailed account of the sufferings of God's people through the Act of Uniformity both in England and Scotland.  
 . . . . Spent part of this forenoon with Winthrop, Thomson, Scott of Long Island, and Whitfield, in debating the business of the Colony of New England; hopes it may still enjoy its former liberties in church and commonwealth, which are now in danger to be utterly lost. Winthrop says it was not his intention New England should have been thus dealt with by her neighbours at Connecticut, nor that her liberties should be infringed, but he desires they may remain as before; desired him to write to Connecticut and make known as much, he being entrusted to act as agent for them: he says **Leete** came to him before he left Connecticut, desiring him to take in New England with Connecticut; hopes Winthrop will do his best to set the New Englanders by themselves and procure their settlement upon their first foundation."

[*Domestic Series*, Chas. II., Vol. LXIX., pp. 63-65.]

A.D. 1675. "William Harris to Fleetwood Shephard. Thanks him for  
 April 26. his kindness to himself, a stranger ; statement of his wrongs and reasons. Has suffered great and long wrong, and can find no effectual remedy in New England, for though he has had a vindication of his and his partner's right both by arbitration and law, he cannot get execution of the judgment owing to the confederation of the forcible enterers openly resisting by force of arms, etc. Knows many leading men in New England, discreet and honest—the Governor of Connecticut, Winthrop, a prudent moderate man, and the Deputy Governor, Leet."

[*Colonial Papers*, Vol. XXXIV., No. 59.]

A.D. 1676. In the answer of Edward Randolph to several heads of inquiry  
 Oct. 12. concerning the then state of New England occurs the following:—  
 "II. New Plymouth and Connecticut. The laws of England are observed, the oath of allegiance taken, writs, &c., in the King's name ; inhabitants about 80,000, there are no slaves ; few merchants, the Colonies being supplied with commodities from Boston ; number of men fitting to bear arms about 20,000 ; the country fertile ; a great quantity of whale oil is made there ; the Navigation Acts are observed, they have no ships of burthen ; the people are loyal ; the Governor of New Plymouth, Winslow, is popular and was General of the united forces against the Indians ; **the Connecticut Governor is William Leet.**"

[*Colonial Papers*, Vol. XXXVII., No. 70.]

A.D. 1679. "30 Charles II. Grant to **William Leet**, Esq., Governor of  
 Sept. 26. the Corporation of Connecticut."  
*Grants of Offices, etc., America ; Index to Patent Rolls.*

The first edition of "THE FAMILY OF LEETE" was presented to the following Libraries in the United States:—

Library of Congress, Washington.

New York State Library, Albany.

Astor Library, New York.

Watkinson Library of Reference, Hartford, Connecticut.

Library of the New York Historical Society.

Library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

State Library of Massachusetts, State House, Boston.

Library of New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Connecticut.  
 Library of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.  
 Library of Yale College, U.S.A.  
 Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.  
 New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord.  
 Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence.  
 Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia.  
 American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.  
 etc., etc.

The following principal Libraries in Great Britain, and Australia, also possess copies of the work :—

Royal Library, Windsor Castle.  
 British Museum, London.  
 Bodleian Library, Oxford.  
 University Library, Cambridge.  
 Advocates' Library, Edinburgh.  
 Trinity College, Dublin.  
 All Souls' College, Oxford.  
 Trinity College, Cambridge.  
 King's College, Cambridge.  
 St. John's College, Cambridge.  
 Library of the Corporation of the City of London, Guildhall.  
 University Library, Glasgow.  
 City of Manchester Free Library.  
 City of Liverpool Free Reference Library.  
 Corporation of Birmingham Free Library.  
 Archbishop's Library, Lambeth.  
 National Art Gallery, South Kensington.  
 Heralds' College.  
 Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London.  
 London Institution, Finsbury Circus.  
 Lincoln's Inn Library.  
 Library of the Middle Temple.  
 City of Melbourne Public Library.  
 etc., etc.

But the distribution of the first edition of my book was not confined to Public Libraries. Copies of the work were also presented to many of the leading members of the family of Leete



in America. The Author is happy to record the pleasure he has enjoyed from the interchange of correspondence with them; and also from the courteous visits of his American kinsfolk when they have been travelling in England. In this connection may be mentioned the names of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sidney Leete, and their daughter Miss Ida Louisa Leete, of New Haven, Conn.; the Rev. Dr. Wm. White Leete, also of New Haven; and Dr. Bernard Christian Steiner, of Baltimore.

It was also highly gratifying to the Author to find that his work had been so favourably noticed in the publications of the Historical Societies of the United States.

A long-sustained correspondence ensued between the Author and the Hon. Lewis Steiner, whose letters are full of interesting facts concerning the Leetes in America.

The most enduring result, however, that accrued from the distribution of the first Leete Record, was the publication in America of a Volume entitled:—"The Family of William Leete, one of the First Settlers of Guilford, Conn., and Governor of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies. Compiled by Edward L. Leete, Guilford, Conn." This work was edited by Dr. Alvan Talcott; and printed at New Haven, U.S.A., in 1884. In the Introduction it is stated that:—"Little was known in this country respecting the antecedents of the Leete Family (descendants of Wm. Leete) in America, until the reception here, quite recently, of an interesting volume, entitled *The Family of Leete*. This book was printed in London, in 1881, 'for private circulation,' and was generously sent to public Libraries in this country by Joseph Leete, Esq., of Eversden, South Norwood Park, S.E., Surrey, England. To this book we are indebted

for most that we know of the family history anterior to the emigration of Wm. Leete to this country in 1639. . . . From the same source comes our knowledge of the Leete Coat-of-Arms, for, though used by Governor Leete in this country, as his seal proves, all knowledge of its use, and even of its existence, had long been obliterated."

In the Index to Volume 34 of Maps published in the "Encyclopædia Britannica" occur the following Names of Places in America where the family have been established :—

Leete Island, Conn., U.S.  
 Leetonia, Ohio, U.S.  
 Leetonia, Penns.<sup>a</sup>, U.S.  
 Leetsdale, Penns.<sup>a</sup>, U.S.  
 Leetsville, Michigan, U.S.  
 Leetville, Nevada, U.S.

*Publications in which reference is made to the life and history of  
 Governor William Leete.*

THE HISTORY OF GUILFORD, CONNECTICUT, from its First Settlement in 1639.  
 From the Manuscripts of Hon. Ralph D. Smith. Albany, N.Y., 1877.

Dr. Trumbull's HISTORY OF CONNECTICUT.

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM LEETE, one of the first Settlers of Guilford, Conn.,  
 and Governor of New Haven and Connecticut Colonies. Compiled by  
 Edward L. Leete, Guilford, Conn. New Haven, 1884.

THE FAMILY OF LEETE: with special reference to the Genealogy of Joseph  
 Leete, Esq., F.S.S., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, South Norwood,  
 Surrey. Collected by the late Charles Bridger, Esq., F.R.H.S., and Edited  
 by J. Corbet Anderson, MDCCCLXXXI. (*Printed for Private Circulation*).

1639. *Proceedings at the Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the Settlement of Guilford, Conn.*, September 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1889. New Haven, Conn., 1889.

*A History of the Plantation of Menunkatuck and of the Original Town of Guilford, Connecticut*, comprising the present towns of Guilford and Madison, written largely from the Manuscripts of the Hon. Ralph Dunning Smyth, by Bernard Christian Steiner. Published by the author, Baltimore, 1897.

*Letter from Governor William Leete to Samuel Desborough*, 10th October, 1654 : in British Museum. Reprinted almost entirely in Dr. B. C. Steiner's *Hist. of Guilford*, p. 67.

*Genealogical Gleanings in England* ; by Henry F. Waters, A.M., printed in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. xli ; see pp. 356-9, and p. 364.

EAST ANGLIA AND THE GREAT CIVIL WAR. The Rising of Cromwell's Ironsides in the associated Counties of Cambridge, Huntingdon, etc. By Alfred Kingston, F.R.Hist.S. Lond. 1897.

THE REGICIDES ; a tale of Early Colonial Times ; by Frederick Hull Cogswell. Published by The Baker & Taylor Co., New York, 1896.

*Governor Wm. Leete and the absorption of New Haven Colony by Connecticut* : by Dr. Bernard C. Steiner. Washington Government Printing Office, 1892.

I think that this chapter on the Leetes of America may be appropriately closed by the reproduction of the two following letters. They were both written twenty years ago, and the sentiments then expressed have, I believe, lost none of their primitive freshness :—

NEW HAVEN, CONN., January 5th, 1885.

JOSEPH LEETE, Esq.,

DEAR SIR,—I take pleasure in sending to you by this mail a copy of the "Leete Family ;" the book gives the names of the descendants of Governor William Leete, as far

as could be ascertained. Hoping you will be interested in looking it over, and that it will be a slight return for your kindness in sending me the "Family of Leete ;"

I remain, yours truly,

IDA L. LEETE.

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EVERSDEN, SOUTH NORWOOD,

LONDON, S.E., 18th January, 1885.

MY DEAR MISS LEETE,—I feel I must break through the stiffness of a more formal address, for you have shown yourself so pleasingly considerate towards me, in sending me from time to time most agreeable letters, and now you have increased the obligation by sending me the long-wished-for Record of the Leete family in America. To increase my appreciation of the Record, and to show your own feelings of kindness to me, you have had the volume superbly bound. Accept my heartiest thanks for all your courtesy and attention.

I shall highly prize the Record, and so will all the members of the family on this side.

As to the numerous living Leetes of America—they will hold in perpetual esteem the memory of Deacon Edward Leete. With them I deeply regret that he should have passed away before the publication of the Record, and before he could receive the tokens of gratitude which should and would have been given to him, in recognition of the grand service he has rendered to the whole family of Leete, wherever they may dwell.

I see that Dr. Alvan Talcott has called special attention to the high personal character of Deacon Leete, and to his title to the esteem, respect, and confidence of all who associated with him.

I am rejoiced to see he has made a graceful allusion to the fact that my work supplied the missing link that bound in an indisputable manner the Leetes of America with the Leetes of England.

Will you kindly convey to the aged widow of the deceased Deacon, and to his son, Mr. Edward Walter Leete, and daughter, Mrs. Dwight Rogers, my sympathy at the loss of the good man.

With best respects to your parents, and your brother,

Yours sincerely,

JOSEPH LEETE.

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## WASHINGTON MEMORIALS.

The feeling of attachment towards the Mother Country, on the part of our kinsfolk in America, is warmly reciprocated by us on this side of the ocean: and, like them, we regard with interest, and claim as a precious part of our common inheritance, whatever tends to illustrate the Family History of the illustrious George Washington.

It will interest, therefore, both the Leetes of England and their Cousins in America to learn that Sir John Washington lived and died at Thrapston, in Northamptonshire. He was the brother of that Lawrence Washington, M.A., of Brasenose College, Oxford, from whom descended the First President of the United States. The mansion in which Sir John Washington resided still stands by the wayside, not far from Thrapston Church.

In the Parish Register of Thrapston will be found the following entries relating to the Family of Washington:—

### Baptism.

A.D.

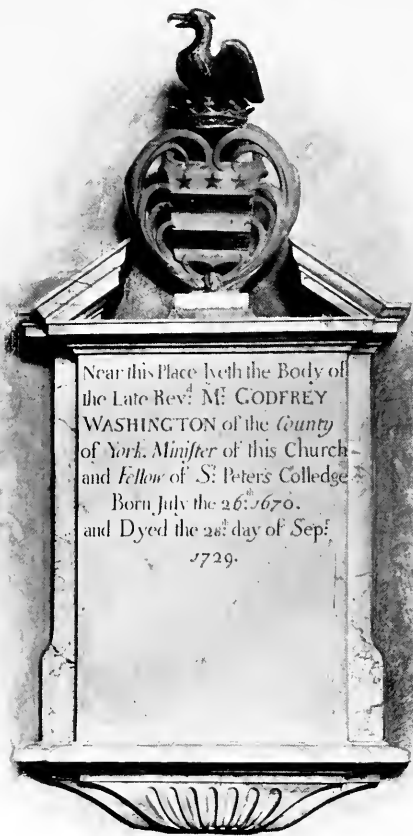
1624. Philippus Washington filius Johanus Washington Armiger de Thrapston  
27<sup>o</sup> Decembris.

*Translation*.:—Philip Washington, son of John Washington, Esquire, of Thrapston, 27 of December.

### Burials.

1632. Elizabetha Washington filia Johan. Washington Equitis Aurati sepulta  
fuit 4<sup>o</sup> die Julij 1632.  
1639. Guilielmus Washington generosus sepultus erat Martij 25<sup>o</sup> 1639.





THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT AT CAMBRIDGE.

*Translations* :—Elizabeth Washington, daughter of John Washington, Knight Batchelor, was buried the 4th day of July, 1632.

William Washington, gentleman, was buried the 25th of March, 1639.

A.D.  
1668. the wright worshipfull Sur John Washingtunn Knight & barrennit May 18, 1668.

The Washington Monument in Thrapston Church was demolished during some alterations of the fabric many years ago. The only fragment remaining of that family memorial is a small stone shield, on which are displayed the well-known Washington Arms :—*Argent, two bars ; and in chief, three mullets, gules ;* but the Crest is wanting.

In the Church of St. Mary the Less, at Cambridge, however, may be seen a very perfect mural tablet in memory of another member of the Washington Family ; which was affixed to the North wall of that Church before President Washington was born. The Monument is thus inscribed :—

Near this Place lyeth the Body of  
the late Rev<sup>d</sup> MR. GODFREY  
WASHINGTON of the County  
of York. Minister of this Church,  
and Fellow of S<sup>t</sup> Peter's Colledge.  
Born July the 26<sup>th</sup> 1670.  
and Dyed the 28<sup>th</sup> day of Sep<sup>r</sup>  
1729.

We present our readers with a photo of the marble tablet referred to, as it shows the mullets and horizontal bars (origin of the famous Stars and Stripes), on a Shield ; surmounted by an Eagle with expanding wings. It thus completely represents the Escutcheon, and Crest, of the Father of his Country ; and proves the English heraldic origin of the Star Spangled Flag of the Great Republic.

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## THE IRISH BRANCH OF THE FAMILY OF LEETE.

The name **Leet**, without the final *e*, has been rendered familiar through distinguished services in the Church, the Army and Navy, and the Medical profession, by members of a branch of the Cambridgeshire Leetes, long settled in Ireland.

The Leets of Ireland claim to be descended from the Leets, or Leetes, of Eversden, in Cambridgeshire; and they use the same family Arms. In a letter addressed to Mr. Joseph Leete, the late Rev. Edward Leet of Dalkey, observes:—"From the result of enquiries, and from the general tradition in my family, I have no doubt we are descended from the Leets, or Leetes, of Eversden, Cambridgeshire. . . . With regard to the first introduction of my family into this country, there is reason to believe that they came over with Cromwell, and that they were nearly allied to Colonel Jones, who held the command of Cromwell's army in Dublin, and who subsequently was appointed Governor of the City of Dublin."

That this tradition had its foundation in fact may be inferred from an entry in the *Journal of the House of Lords*, Vol. VII, p. 279, which gives the List of Officers for the New Model of the Army, presented to Parliament March 18th, 1644-5. Among those named for Colonel Barkley's Regiment of Foot occurs "Captain Leete."

In the Annals of Dublin it is recorded that Ambrose Leet, Esq., of St. Stephen's Green, was appointed Sheriff Peer of

that City in 1798. He was uncle of Ambrose Leet, Esq., who held the office of President of the General Post Office for many years: this Ambrose Leet was the author of a work on the Residences of the Nobility and Gentry of Ireland. He had four sons and four daughters. One of these sons, Charles Henry Leet, M.D., was a Member of the General Medical Council, and resided at Rathamin Upper, Co. Dublin. He married Jane Ussher, daughter of John Ussher, M.D., of Woodpark, Kingstown, a lineal descendant of the very learned prelate James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, whose uncle, Archbishop Henry Ussher, was the Founder of Trinity College, Dublin. The issue of this marriage was five sons:—Ambrose Wellesley Leet, D.D., Gold Medallist and Scholar of Trinity College, Dublin, who became Incumbent of Bethesda Church, Dublin; Charles Henry Leet, F.R.C.S., England and Q. College of Physicians, late Surgeon-Major Royal Engineers; John Ussher Leet; Robert Theobald Leet; and Edward Wilberforce Leet, late Surgeon Royal Navy: also three daughters, namely, Elizabeth, Georgina, and Emma.

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It will be seen from the following letter from Major-Gen. W. Knox Leet, V.C., that this distinguished soldier was interested in the elucidation of the history of his family.

Richmond Barracks,  
Dublin,

To Joseph Leete, Esq.

5 *March* /83.

Dear Sir,

Very many thanks for your letter of the 24th ult., and for the Genealogical record of the Leete Family which you have so kindly sent to me, and w<sup>h</sup> I have very great pleasure in accepting.

It is most interesting to me as containing a record of the family in England from w<sup>h</sup> no doubt the branch to which I belong originally sprang.

I wish much that some member of my branch of the family could be found with sufficient leisure and patience to discover the missing links.

Pray allow me to compliment you on the admirable manner in w<sup>h</sup> the book has been put together throughout, and again thanking you for y<sup>r</sup> kindness in presenting me with a copy,

Believe me,

very faithfully yours,

W. KNOX LEET.

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Major-Gen. W. Knox Leet was a son of the late Rev. Edward Leet, Rector of Dalkey, in Ireland. Entering the Army in 1855, his first service was rendered during the Indian Mutiny campaign of 1858-59. He took part in various other military operations in India, and for his services on these occasions was specially mentioned in the despatches.

The Victoria Cross was awarded to Major Leet for his gallant conduct on March 28, 1879, in rescuing from the Zulus Lieut. A. M. Smith, of the Frontier Light Horse, during the retreat from the Inhlobana Mountains.

Colonel Leet finally served with the Burmese expedition of 1886-87, in command of the 2nd Battn. Somersetshire Light Infantry; was mentioned again in the despatches; and created a C.B. He retired from the Army with the honorary rank of Major-General, 1 May, 1887.

Major-General William Knox Leet, V.C., C.B., died at his residence, at Ashford, Kent, on the 29th of June, 1898.

## NICHOLAS LEATE,

ALDERMAN OF LONDON,

Merchant,

Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, etc.

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NICHOLAS LEATE was the son of Nicholas Leatt of Horsley, in the County of Derby. He was an influential member of the Company of Ironmongers. He served the office of Master in 1616, 1626, and again, in consequence of the demise of Mr. William Canning, during the year 1627.

Nicholas Leate was one of the Captains of the City Trainbands. John Stow, who wrote in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, mentions a Map or Plan of Moorfields as intended to be laid out by one Leate, a citizen. The original ground of the Hon. Artillery Company of the City of London was in Spittle Fields; but in 1640 the Company "entered upon the plot of ground in Bunhill-fields, leased to them by the City, for 139 years, at the reserved rent of 6s. 8d., which Alderman Leate was long preparing for them."

Leate was well known in the reigns of Elizabeth, and James I., for his surveys and projects, many of which were executed to the great advantage and ornament of the City. In 1610 he presented to the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen a petition for setting up the effigies of the Kings and Queens of England



NICHOLAS LEATE,  
 Alderman of London.



in the Royal Exchange; and the same was referred by the Court of Aldermen to the Court of Common Council. Whether Mr. Leate's proposition was adopted in all its details does not appear; it is, however, certain that the effigies of the Sovereigns of England were set up in the first Exchange, as their destruction in the Fire of London, in 1666, is mentioned by Strype.

In accordance with an example set by Sir Walter Raleigh, who introduced into England a variety of plants from different regions which he visited, Mr. Leate endeavoured to improve the flora of his own country, by importing from the East rare flowers and plants. Honourable mention is made of Mr. Leate's botanical enterprise in the works of Gerard and Parkinson. Thus, in Gerard's *Herbal*, edit. 1597, p. 246, we read that:—

"The swollen Colewort—*Brassica Tophosa* of al other is the strangest, which I received fro a worshipfull merchant of London, Master **Nicholas Lete**, who brought the seeds thereof out of France, and who is greatly in love with rare and faire flowers and plants, for which he doth carefully send into Syria, having a servant there at Alepo, and in many other countries, for the which myself, and likewise the whole land, are much bound unto him," etc.

"Beetes, *Beta*. There is likewise another sort hereof that was brought unto me from beyond the seas by that courteous merchant **Master Lete**, before remembred, the which hath leaves very great and red of colour . . . . It grew with me in 1596 to the height of viij cubites, and did bring forth his rough and uneven seede very plentifully," etc.—*Ibid.*, p. 251.

"Clove Gillo flowers. There are at the present day under the name of *Caryophyllus* comprehended divers and sundrie sorts of plants, of such variable colours, and also several shapes, that a great and large volume would not suffice to write of every one at large in particular, considering how infinite they are, and who every yeer every climate and country bringeth forth new soortes . . . .



some whereof are called Carnations, others . . . . double and single Gilloflowers, as also a gilloflower with yellow flowers, the which a worshipful merchant of London, **Master Nicholas Lete**, procured from Poland, and gave one thereof for my garden, which before that time was never seen or heard of in these countries."—*Ibid.*, p. 472.

"The yellow rose" observes Parkinson, in his *Paradisus*, edit. 1629, p. 420, "which first was procured to be brought into England by Master **Nicholas Lete**, a worthy merchant of London, and a great lover of flowers, from Constantinople, which (as wee hear) was first brought thither from Syria," etc. Again, in the Chapter on Lilies—*Ibid.*, p. 30.—*Lilium Persicum* the Persian Lily. "This was, as is thought, brought from Persia into Constantinople, and from thence sent to us by means of divers Turkie merchants, and in especiall by the procurement of Mr. **Nicholas Lete**, a worthy merchant, and a lover of all faire flowers."

In his interesting article on *Elizabethan Flower Gardens*, contributed to *Harper's Monthly Magazine*, June, 1905, Mr. Edmund Gosse observes:—

"At the close of the sixteenth century there was a heroic effort made by the gardeners of England to extend the dominion of their art, and to take in new forms of beauty . . . called 'outlandish' flowers, exotic varieties which it was found would thrive and blossom freely in English open gardens. The result was nothing less than a revolution in English horticulture. A prime mover in this, if he was not positively its originator, was a Turkey merchant named Nicholas Leate, who, about 1590, being a member of the Court of the Levant Company, began to make use of his opportunities to import from the East a great many varieties of handsome flowers, which had up to that date been unknown to English herbalists, or merely thought of as rarities of botanical interest.

"Nicholas Leate employed collectors in Syria and Turkey, and in many other countries, to supply specimens; we read of beautiful things that were sent home by his 'servant at Aleppo.' He greatly enlarged our British flora."

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A.D. 1609. The Articles agreed on between the Privy Council on the  
 Jan<sup>y</sup>. 28. King's behalf, and the Committees appointed on behalf of the  
 Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London, concerning a  
 plantation in part of the Province of Ulster, were signed by the Lord Chancellor,  
 the Lord Treasurer, and, among other influential persons, by **Nicholas Leate**.  
*Carew MSS.*

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A.D. 1624. **Nicholas Leate** was one of the Commissioners appointed by  
 July 15. Letters Patent of King James I., dated July 15, 1624, to take  
 into consideration the state of the Colony and Plantation of  
 Virginia, "as well for the safety of the people, strength of the place, and govern-  
 ment there, as for the managing of the business here in England," and to settle  
 the same by such orders, as they shall find most fit, and gives them power to  
 execute authorities, privileges, &c., mentioned in said Letters, with power to take  
 into their custody the seals of the Treasurer, Company, and Council of Virginia."  
*[Patent Roll, 22 Jac. I., Part I., No. 4.]*

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### Will of NICHOLAS LEATT. A.D. 1631.

In the Name of God Amen : The thirde daye of June Anno Dmi<sup>9</sup>. 1631, and  
 in the seaventh yeare of the Raigne of o<sup>r</sup> soveraigne Lorde Charles by the grace  
 of God Kinge of Englande Scotland ffrance & Irelande defendo<sup>r</sup> of the faithe &c.  
 I **Nicholas Leatt** Cittizen & Ironmonger of London beinge sicke in body but of  
 sounde and perfect memorie (blessed be God) doe make & ordaine this my last  
 Will & Testament in manner & forme followinge (That is to saye) ffirste I  
 comende my Soule into the handes of God my Creato<sup>r</sup> Hopinge and assuredlye  
 trustinge throughe the only merritts of Jhesus Crīti my Savio<sup>r</sup> to be made  
 ptaker of lyfe everlastinge My Body I cōmytte to the Earthe to be decently  
 buried accordinge to the discrea<sup>o</sup>ns of my executors hereafter named And for  
 the worldye estate wherew<sup>th</sup> it hathe pleased God to blesse me whether it be in  
 goodes or Chattells debts or acco<sup>ts</sup> on this syde or beyonde the Seas or whatsoe<sup>r</sup>  
 is due & belonginge vnto me I giue & bequeathe the same as hereafter  
 followeth. Inprimis I giue and bequeathe to **my three daughters** vnmarried  
**Elizabeth Judeth & Jane** the some of One thowsand marcks a peece (beinge three  
 thowsand marcks in the whole) towards their maynten<sup>ce</sup> & preferment to be

payde them after my debts are discharged & payde oute of the firste of my estate that can after be recovered or shall come to the handes of my exec<sup>ors</sup> Item I desyre my sayde executors after the payment of my debts & childrens porcions abovesayd to giue and distribute suche Legacies as I haue privatelie acquaynted them w<sup>thall</sup> The rest of my said estate whatsoever I give & bequeathe to my twoe Sonnes **Richarde & Huett** whome I make and appoynte to be my executors of this my last Will and Testament the same to be equallye divided betwene them And I doe intreate my Sonnes J<sup>n</sup> Wilde & Henry Hunt w<sup>th</sup> my Cosyn Raphe Handson to be ou<sup>seers</sup> thereof In witnes whereof I haue hereunto putt my hande & seale & have published this for my last Will and Testament hereby revokinge all former Wills heretofore by me made or written *per me Nic<sup>o</sup> Leatt*. Signed sealed and published in the pr<sup>ce</sup> of John Wylde, Raphe Handson, Henrye Norrys, Nicholas Country, Thomas ffarewell . . .

*Proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury,  
28th June, 1631.*

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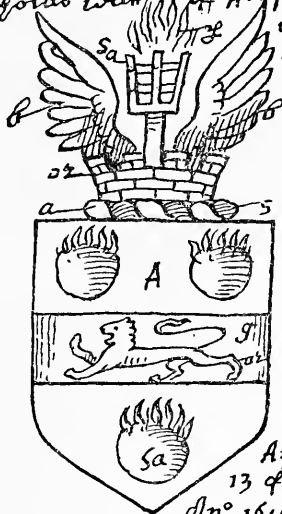
"1631. Mr. Richard Leatt, and Mr. Huet Leatt, exors. of the last will and tes of Mr. **Nicholas Leatt**, deceased, a worthie citizen and member of this (Ironmongers') Comp<sup>y</sup>, presented to the said Comp<sup>y</sup> their said father's picture in oyle colour, as a token of their love, to remain in the Hall as a remembrance of their dear deceased father, w<sup>ch</sup> the Court thankfully accepted."

This portrait, now in the Court Room of Ironmongers' Hall, is described as follows:—

"**Nicholas Leate**, an esteemed member of the Company, and Master in the year 1616, 1626 and part of 1627, habited in a black gown, richly furred, deep ruff and ruffles, and dark beard and whiskers."

On one side of the picture are painted the words—**Nicholas Leate**, Master in 1626 and 1627: and on the other side are shown the Arms of Nicholas Leate; impaling (those of his wife) argent, a cross voided of the field between four mullets or stars of eight points sable.

*Nicholas Leate of London son of  
Nicholas Leate of Hoxley in the  
county of Darby*



*Apaltton 169  
13 of December  
Ano 1616 /*

ARMS OF NICHOLAS LEATE.  
*From Camden's Grants,  
Harl. MS. 6095.*

A grant of the following Arms to Mr. **Nicholas Leate**, dated the 13th December, 1616, is entered in the books of Heralds' College:—*Argent, on a fesse gules between three fire balls sable, from each flames proper, a lion passant or. Crest, on a mural crown or, a fire-beacon sable, with fire proper, between two wings azure.*

For further references to Nicholas Lete, or Leate, see *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic Series) of the Reigns of Queen Elizabeth, King James I, and King Charles I, preserved in the Public Record Office, London*; and the volume entitled "SOME ACCOUNT OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF IRONMONGERS. Compiled from their own records and other authentic sources of information, by John Nicholl, F.S.A."

## THE DE LETTES OF FRANCE.

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On reference to the extracts we have given from "*Testa De Nevill*," pp. 17-18, it will be observed that a certain Ralph de Meulent, having failed to join the Army of King John, then in Brittany, the King deprived him of the Manor of Ippolepenn, in the County of Devon, and gave it to Nicholas de Lettres—otherwise de Lete, or de Lettes.

It will be remembered that, during the reign of King John, frequent reference is made in the Close Rolls to the Knights-Crusaders, Peter, Nicholas, Walter, and Radmund de Lete; it therefore appears probable that members of the Family were attached to the service of King John, in France; and that they were ancestors of the Knight Nicholas de Lettes; who, in 1352, was Lord of Campendu, Parafa, etc., and Master of the household of the Duke of Anjou.

Anselme, in his great genealogical work on the Royal House of France, Grand Officers of the Crown, etc.,\* gives the following

### Descent of the Lords of Montpezat, of the surname DE LETTES.

#### I.

**Nicolas de Lettes**, Knight, Lord of Campendu, Parafa, Puechlicon, etc., Grand-Master of the Waters and Forests of Languedoc, Captain of Saintes, Master

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\* ANSELME. Histoire Genealogique et Chronologique de la Maison Royale de France; des Pairs; Grands officiers de la Couronne & de la Maison du Roy, & des anciens Barons du Royaume; avec les Qualitez, l'Origine, le Progrès & les Armes de leurs Familles; etc. Troisième Edition, à Paris, MDCCXXXIII. Tome Septième, pp. 188-190.

of the household of the Duke of Anjou, with whom he was in great favour, and whom, in his capacity as Captain and Castellan of the (fortified) bridge of Saintes, he served during the years 1352 and 1353, in the wars in Gascony, with three esquires and three men-at-arms, according to the 19th account of Jean-Chauvel. His seal, on a receipt of the 13th August 1355, is a band charged with three stars, on a chief a scutcheon, whereon appears the device as of a Cross fixed. He made his will on the 31st July, 1383.



Seal of  
NICOLAS de LETTES.

*First Wife* :—Illande, Lady of Campendu, widow of Bigot de la Bruyère, and youngest daughter of Géraud, Lord of Campendu and Aiguevives. It was during her lifetime that her husband sold the barony of Campendu to the Duke of Anjou.

1. Jean de Lettes, Lord of Puechlicon (who follows).
2. Jeanne de Lettes.

*Second Wife* :—Jaucionde, Lady of Sauveterre, in the diocese of Castre ; was remarried to Arnaud de Merle, and was living in 1406, at the time of her daughter's marriage.

1. Marie de Lettes was betrothed to Philippes de Bré, and died before the celebration of the marriage.
2. Jeanne de Lettes, married first, the said Philippes de Bré, Lord of Aiguevives, secondly, Louis de Merle. It is found in the records of the house of Gléon-Durban that Jeanne de Lettes, daughter of the late Nicolas de Lettes, Lord of the Villa des Ports, and Parafa in the diocese of Narbonne, and of Jaucionde, Lady of Sauveterre, then living, married by contract of 13th June 1406, Olivier, Lord of Gléon, Trelles, Durban, etc., son of Olivier, Lord of Gléon, and of Raymonde de Pujols, in the presence of Jean de Lettes, her brother. She is not described as widow in the contract.

One also finds Guillaume de Lettes, Lord of Salvaterre, who died in 1451.

## II.

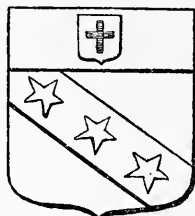
**Jean de Lettes**, Knight, Lord of Puechlicon, Parafa, Villa des Ports, etc., served in the wars in Gascony with fourteen esquires, according to an account of the year 1415. He died in 1444.

*His Wife* :—Blanche de Merle, was the mother of :—

## III.

**Antoine de Lettes**, Lord of Puechlicon, described as an esquire in a record of the 25th February 1485.

*Wife* :—Blanche des Prez, eldest daughter of Antoine des Prez, Lord of Montpezat, mentioned hereafter, was married by contract of 6th December 1488.



Arms of  
JEAN de LETTES.

1. Antoine de Lettes, known as des Prez, Lord of Montpezat.
2. Jean de Lettes, Abbot of Moissac, Bishop of Beziers and Montauban, exchanged his bishopric of Beziers in 1543, with the King's permission, for the Abbey of Moissac with Jean de Narbonne; pleaded against the monks, and obtained royal authority to bring to justice his enemy, Messire Antoine Joglar, calling himself judge of Moissac, on 23rd Oct<sup>r</sup> 1554; reduced this Abbey to the number of thirty monks all of whom were to be gentlemen; resigned the position in 1556 to Louis de Lorraine, Cardinal of Guise; was appointed Abbot of Lieu-Dieu 10<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1557, and married Armande de Durfort de Boissière, widow of Guillaume de Bousquet; retired to Geneva, and there purchased the barony of Eaubonne, according to a decree of the 15<sup>th</sup> March 1557, which contains the legalisation of the marriage of the noble and puissant Seigneur, Jean de Lettes, formerly Bishop of Montauban, Baron of Eaubonne, residing there with Lady Armande de Durfort de Boissière, his wife, enacted before the judge Concessoire at Berne, to constitute their children lawful heirs of their father's property. He died on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 1559, left to his daughter, Marguérite de Lettes, 4,000 francs, together with his wardrobe, worth 500 francs; appointed as his only heirs the nobles Jaques and François de Lettes, his sons, and constituted the noble and generous Lady Armande de Durfort of Eaubonne, his wife, usufructuary of one portion of the barony of Eaubonne. His

second son is described as the high and puissant Lord François de Lettes, esquire, Lord and Baron of Eaubonne, in his marriage contract of the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1571, with Mademoiselle Peronne d'Anglure, daughter of Claude d'Anglure, Lord of Jours, Knight of the Order of the King, and of Isabeau de Joyeuse, then a widow. These two sons commenced proceedings for their father's succession in 1590, against Henry des Prez, Bishop of Montauban, and for the Château de Beauvais, which their father had bought.

Jean de Lettes, having quarrelled, fought a duel, was wounded by his adversary, and put into prison, where he died. . . . .

3. Blanche de Lettes, married in 1519 to Charles, Baron de Roquefeuille, Lord of Pouget and Vendemian.
4. Cathérine de Lettes, married by contract of the 21<sup>st</sup> Nov. 1513, Stephen, Lord of St. Félix, and died 6<sup>th</sup> July 1560.
5. Antoinette de Lettes, married by contract of the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1509, Jean, Lord of Mervieil, who died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1538.

#### IV.

**Antoine de Lettes**, Marshal of France, assumed the surname of des Prez, and became Lord of Montpezat, of Puy de la Roche, and other lands. He inherited the entire estate of the noble House of des Prez from his maternal uncles, Pierre des Prez, lord of Montpezat, etc., and Jean des Prez, Bishop of Montauban.



Arms and Seal of

ANTOINE (de LETTES surnamed) DES PREZ, MARSHAL OF FRANCE 1543-1544.







JOSEPH LEETE.  
Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur.

W J Wrought

Grosvener Studio  
Upper Norwood



## GLIMPSSES OF THE CAREER OF MR. JOSEPH LEETE,

Author of this and the former Edition of  
THE FAMILY OF LEETE.

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The following notice of the career of Mr. Joseph Leete is extracted from a volume entitled "Rambling Records of a long and busy life," printed, for private circulation, in 1904, by Wm. Evill, Esq., J.P. for Surrey.

"Before I close my references to the able and remarkable men with whom it has been my privilege to be associated, I must make cordial allusion to my friend Joseph Leete. Our connection dates from early in the fifties.

Joseph Leete's career has been both interesting and distinguished. Beginning City life as a junior clerk at the age of fifteen, he is now the honoured head of an important City firm—Joseph Leete & Sons—a firm entirely of his own creation. One key to his success has been the possession of a singular linguistic faculty. His acquaintance with the leading European languages enabled him to make all Continental Europe the sphere of his operations. At the age of twenty-one he started in business as a shipping and insurance agent, and exporter to the Continent of English products. The Anglo-French Treaty of Commerce and the opening of the Universal Exhibitions materially aided him. He threw himself with indomitable energy into the new and illimitable sphere of work thus opened up to him, and soon no name became better known throughout Continental commercial circles than that of Joseph Leete.

I have before me the published account of a probably unique function. Two years ago Joseph Leete's jubilee as head and founder of his firm was celebrated by a banquet given to him at the Hotel Cecil by his partners and his travelling and office staffs, when he was presented with an illuminated address and with his marble bust. It was more like a family gathering than a meeting of business men. In reality it was an assemblage of attached friends.

Many were the congratulations that Mr. Leete received on the occasion from friends abroad as well as at home, all paying their tribute to his distinguished career, a career alike encouraging and instructive. One writer at the time thus speaks of Mr. Leete's personal characteristics :—

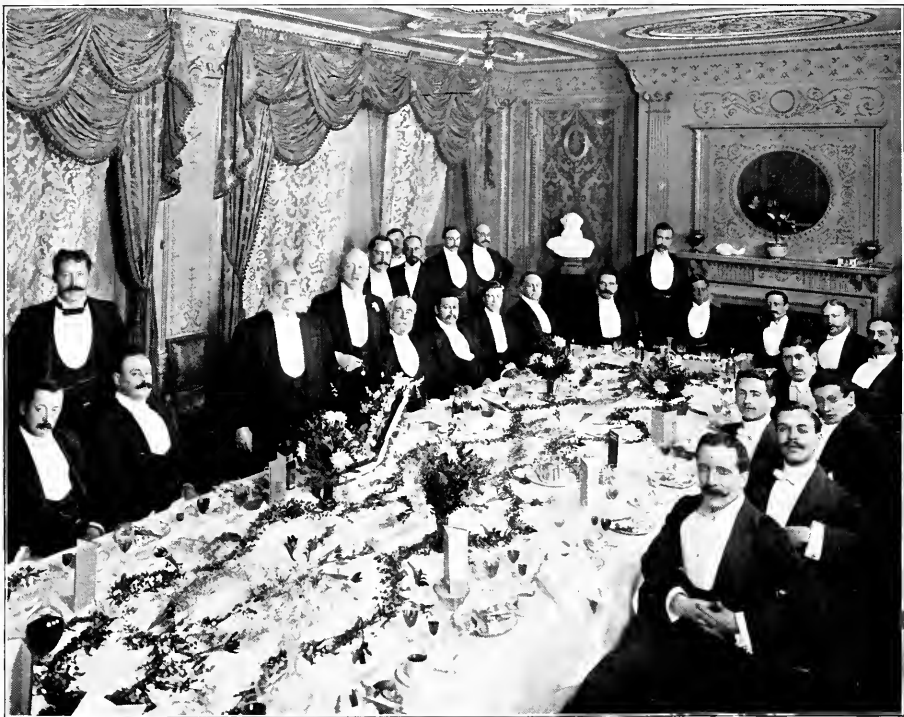
‘A man of rare mental endowments and wide culture, of high ideals and generous sympathies, of remarkable powers of conversation, and a *raconteur* who can draw upon wonderful stores of memory of men and things, he combines a genius for business, touched with the literary and artistic temperament, and is withal an ideal type of the *mens sana in corpore sano*.’

Such is the man whom I am proud to include in the *sanctum sanctorum* of my friendships.”

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It will be observed that, in the above quotation from Mr. Evill's book, he alludes to the Presentation to Mr. Joseph Leete of an Illuminated Address, and his bust, executed by the eminent sculptor, F. W. Pomeroy, on the occasion of his Jubilee as Head and Founder of the Firm of Joseph Leete & Sons. We have, therefore, thought it well to reprint the speech delivered by Mr. Leete at the gathering referred to, much of it being in the nature of his auto-biography.

MR. LEETE said :—“MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN, it is very difficult for me to find words to express in an adequate manner the emotion that has been aroused in my breast by all that has been said, and by all that you have placed on record in your Address, and last of all, by your presentation to me of a noble work of art in the shape of a portrait bust of myself. I ask my dear old friend Mr. Callaghan, who so worthily occupies the chair to-night, and my sons who, with Mr. Callaghan, have, in their capacity of partners, taken so large a share in all that has been done, I ask Mr. Dunnett, who has acted as Secretary, and I ask all the gentlemen on the travelling staff and on the office staff, who have joined in this presentation, to accept my most profound thanks for the signal honour which has been conferred upon me. The ringing cheers which accompanied the drinking of my health and the enthusiastic singing of the old, old song can never be forgotten by me, and I believe will not be forgotten by anyone present, for they are, as it were, an outburst of the deep feeling of regard which I am proud to know you truly feel for me. It was indeed a generous impulse on the part of all who have sought to commemorate this jubilee year of my headship of our firm, to present me with an address full of gracious



THE DINNER AND PRESENTATION TO JOSEPH LEETE, ESQ.,  
on the occasion of his Jubilee, 1852-1902, as Founder and Head of the Business of Joseph Leete and Sons,  
Hotel Cecil, London, January 11th, 1902.



words which I shall always read with pride, and which will go down to posterity as a testimony of your appreciation of the spirit in which I have laboured *with you*, and I hope I may say *for you*. It will stand as a permanent memorial of that spirit of friendship and esteem which it has been my desire to foster in the hearts of all towards me as employer, and which, I need scarcely say, I have entertained to the fullest extent towards you all. This portrait bust, executed with such fidelity to nature, and with such artistic power, will not be valued simply as a work of art, but its value will be enhanced in my eye, and in that of my family, by the fact that it was given to me as a mark of affectionate regard by all those who, by their having been daily occupied by my side for a large portion of their lives, have the best reason to appreciate such qualities as I possess.

"Your generous estimate of those qualities reminds me of the very striking fact that this is not a purely business gathering, in which the head of the firm finds himself surrounded by those who are associated with him merely by ties of service. It is rather a tribute of personal regard from all who have worked with me. What, gentlemen, does this mean? It means that it is quite possible to infuse into the daily affairs of life an element of poetry and a sentiment which makes everything brighter and more agreeable to us.

"Looking around me, it seems that even the youngest of you is quite old in years, as compared with the gentle boy Callaghan, who was brought to me by his father and placed under my care before he was 15 years old. That was in the year 1853, a period now exceeding 48 years, and, therefore, I believe, anterior to the birth of the oldest member of the staff now sitting at this table. Is it matter for wonder that, having passed pretty well the whole of our existence together, and never having had a word said that could wound the feelings of the other, and never having allowed questions of interest to divide us, that in the course of the years a mutual trust should have arisen which has defied the shocks and changes of our mortal existence, the esteem gradually deepening into an abiding affection which has sweetened both our lives. I am sure that he must have found it difficult to put into words all he would like to say about me, and it is not less difficult for me to utter all that my heart might desire to say about him. But you have heard enough to carry the conviction to your minds, that his feeling for me is intensely deep and sincere, and all I can do is to thank him from my heart for having undertaken the duty of occupying the chair, and of being the foremost spokesman on this memorable occasion. Mr. Callaghan has not stood alone in his desire to convey his sentiments concerning me, for Mr. Exelby, as senior representative of our Travelling Staff, has expressed in most graceful and felicitous terms his own feelings of regard for me, and made himself the able exponent of the sentiments of his colleagues. Most kindly and most nobly has he acquitted himself of his duty, and I shall always treasure the memory of all that he has said for himself and for his fellow travellers. It has also



been a pleasure to me to see the senior member of our Office Staff undertake the duty of speaking for himself and for those who surround him in the work of the office. I thank him and those who are present here from the office, and I beg him to convey to all his juniors who are not present the assurance of my warm appreciation for all the expressions of esteem and affection which have fallen from his lips. I trust there will always be a spirit of harmony among those who carry on our work at home, and that the burden of labour, often irksome and tedious, may be lightened by the pervading influence of perfect goodwill among those who have to spend their days in each other's company.

"Before I leave this pleasant jubilee ground I should like to take you back in memory to a previous event, not indeed a jubilee like this, in commemoration of 50 years' headship of the firm, but the jubilee of my birth, which was celebrated on the 20th of January, 1881. Thankful am I indeed that there are in this room several who can recall what was done at that time. The scene was not at an hotel, but was at my private house. The Continental and Office Staff combined to present me with a handsome pair of rosewater dishes with ewer, which you have all seen and admired on my sideboard. On that occasion you had for your spokesman the senior traveller of that time, Mr. Herbert Pretty, whose presence among us we all welcome with joy to-night, and who is again one of the participators in this new presentation. Not one of you who was present on that occasion could ever forget the delight with which my late beloved wife received into her house the beautiful tribute you then made me, and you will all share my poignant regret that she has been removed from our midst, and has not been permitted to experience the joy of receiving into her house this bust of me, which she would have admired and held to be its chiefest ornament. That year, 1881, was rendered doubly memorable by the circumstance that at precisely the time I had reached my 50th year the French Government conferred upon me the distinction of the Order of Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur.

"Perhaps many of you will already have been thinking that much of our talk has been about things that concern rather the climax of a man's career than its early beginnings. Some of you have had the opportunity either of hearing or of reading the details of my early life, but no harm will be done if I repeat to you these particulars in as concise a form as possible. I may tell you that, in 1846, when I was 15 years old, I came up to London from my native town of Royston, in Hertfordshire, and then entered the service of a French gentleman, Mr. Constant Champion, who had married one of my father's sisters. He was in partnership in business with a Belgian gentleman named Vermeir. The name of the firm was Vermeir and Champion. They were engaged in the City as Shipping Agents, and as Commission Merchants; that is, they bought for account of a large number of Continental firms. In addition to their City business they had another of a totally

different character which was carried on in Castle Street, in the Borough. That consisted mainly of the importation of foreign window glass, some portion of which, especially that which was coloured, underwent certain treatment such as its conversion into ground glass, and the cutting of fancy designs on the coloured glass. These processes necessitated the employment of a number of Belgian workmen, some of whom could only speak French, while others who were Flemings spoke Flemish and French. My uncle Champion and his partner at my first interview with them put questions to me to test my youthful powers, especially in arithmetic, and I was fortunately able to answer these promptly and correctly. As their questions had reference chiefly to measurements, it was probably owing to this simple circumstance that they came to the conclusion that I should be more useful to them at the glass factory than in the City office. I was accordingly conducted to Castle Street, where I spent about twelve months. I found myself the only person of English birth in the place, and I heard nothing else but French and Flemish the whole day long. Being of studious habits, I worked hard at French, and in the course of the twelve months I became able to write and speak the language in a creditable manner. Thus, in the most unexpected and remarkable way was laid the foundation of my future connection with foreign languages and with foreign people. I was afterwards drafted into the City office, and there had the opportunity of putting into daily practice all that I had learned and continued to learn. Having come from the country where I had been brought up with serious-minded people, I did not become absorbed in the pleasures which so frequently occupy the leisure of London boys, and was not therefore allured by them from work. I devoted all my spare time to studies of a serious character. I rose early, and, by wasting no time, was able to get several hours a day to myself. This mode of life was closely adhered to until I had reached my 20th year, and you will readily understand that it led to the development of strength of character and a spirit of self-reliance.

“The turning point in my career was soon to come. Another of my father's sisters had married Dr. George French Flowers, who had received a University education at Oxford, and had taken the degree of Bachelor of Music at that University, and had become a well-known composer of music. He was settled in London and had established a British school of Vocalization. His favourite pupil, a highly accomplished vocalist, was Miss Harriet Whitaker. She found it necessary to learn Italian and French, and as her progress was slow with her ordinary masters, I was asked by my uncle, Dr. Flowers, to give her additional lessons in these languages. For this purpose I spent several evenings of the week at her father's house, and the frequency of our meeting and the interest we both took in our studies, led to our forming a strong attachment. As a result we became engaged in the month of November, 1851, two months before I had reached the age of 21. You will understand that I now found myself face to face with a very serious

situation. Fortunately for my future career, it happened that closely following upon my engagement to Miss Whitaker, my uncle Champion relinquished his business in the City, and no longer required my services. Finding myself thus free to take my own course, I resolved to commence business on my own account. This decision was taken in the early days of 1852, and the circular announcing my establishment in business bore the date 1st April. It was owing to the fact that my circular fell into the hands of Messrs. Baillon Bros., of Nottingham, that I became acquainted with Mr. Emile Baillon, and entered into partnership with him in the following month of May.

"The first work of importance which I undertook at the instigation of Messrs. Baillon Bros. was to visit the great centres of manufacturing industry in England, where I induced many firms to entrust us with the shipment and insurance of the goods they were sending abroad.

"I do not think it is necessary that more of your time should be taken up this evening by a narration of the development and progress of our business, the beginning of which I have just described. An occasion of this kind may, however, suggest to your minds the wish to know not only something about the origin of the business, but also to what causes may be attributed my own success in life, which you have to-night so handsomely recognised. I venture, therefore, to point out some of the fundamental forces and underlying principles which must guide every man who has the ambition to fill his station in life to the utmost of his powers. First of all there is one grand principle which should be observed throughout the whole field of action, and that is THOROUGHNESS. There must be energy and an indomitable determination to spare no effort that is needful for the accomplishment of whatever task is undertaken. Fortunate indeed is the man who possesses one of nature's finest gifts, a good constitution. Emerson says, 'For the performance of great work, it needs extraordinary health,' and we have it much in our own hands to build up our health and strength by constant care, and by the avoidance of habits which tend to undermine our bodily vigour. The primary benefit that we feel from the enjoyment of health and vigour is a spirit of enterprise. Men who are strong do not wait for or depend alone upon favourable opportunities, though they are usually prompt to seize upon these when they occur, but, in the main, by their own force of character cut channels for themselves and, as is commonly said, 'carve their own way to fortune.' 'There is always room for a man of force, and he makes room for many.' It has been my good fortune to have by my side all through life faithful, steady, single-minded coadjutors, and each in his turn, by constant contact with me, has, I feel sure, come under my personal influence, and imbibed unknowingly the same principles which have actuated me. To all such I have striven to deal in a spirit of loyalty, and that feeling has awakened in them a response which has shown that they were animated towards me by the same loyal sentiments. The

closeness of the ties which have thus bound us together has rendered our work lighter, and we have gone forward, as it were, hand in hand, and a spirit of cheerfulness and mutual goodwill has made life sweeter and pleasanter than it otherwise would have been.

"Gentlemen, as I stand before you to-night and am delighted to be the recipient of the honours you have conferred upon me, I cannot but recall the names of those who have worked with me in the building up of the business as it is to-day. First, my excellent old partner, Mr. Emile Baillon. When he joined me in 1852 he was seven years my senior and had acquired considerable experience and knowledge of business both at home and abroad, while in the service of his brothers, Messrs. Baillon, of Nottingham. The partnership formed in 1852 existed, under the name of Leete & Baillon, until the 31st of December, 1889, that is, for a period of 38 years, although Mr. Baillon had retired on account of ill-health in the year 1875. His death, which was much regretted, occurred in 1890. He will always be remembered as an honourable man of fine capacity, who rendered great service to the business long years before any other skilful hands came to our help. You know that I am thinking, too, of our late and highly esteemed old partner, Mr. William Joseph Smith, who was known to many around me. He joined our ranks at the age of 15 in the very first year of our business existence in 1852. Mr. Smith was a zealous worker, and one of the most truthful, honourable, and upright men I have ever known. He retired from business at the end of 1889, and, to our intense regret, died in the course of the following year. He had been with us first as clerk and then as partner for a period of 38 years. There is yet one other name which will be in all your thoughts, that of my beloved son Warren, who was a partner in our house in later years, and whose premature passing away was the cause of the deepest and most heartfelt grief to *all* who knew him. Happily for my consolation at that period of my intense affliction, I had two sons left, Arthur and Norman. Their love and true filial devotion have cheered my heart in the darkest days of trial. They will know how to bear my name with honour, and by their ability and industry continue to increase the fair fame which is now enjoyed by the firm of Joseph Leete & Sons.

"As to the members forming the present staff of travellers, their individual merits and sterling character are known to you all, and it would not be fitting, however tempting the theme, to sound their praises in their very ears. For the same good reasons I will abstain from singling out for especial praise the names of the senior members of the Office Staff, who have shown unremitting zeal and carefulness in the discharge of their onerous duties. I must, however, mention that the nature and length of their honourable services are placed upon record in this beautifully Illuminated Address, which will remain as a treasured heirloom in my family. To one and all, whether travelling abroad or working at home, I accord my most

unstinted and grateful thanks for their brave and loyal co-operation in carrying on the business of my firm. I once more beg you to accept my heartfelt thanks for the great honour that you have done me this day, an honour that will be held in imperishable and grateful memory by me, by my sons, and by all the members of my family. It remains for me now to wish you with all my heart an abundant measure of health, happiness and prosperity, and to assure you that my earnest hope is that you may all long continue to co-operate with me, my sons, and Mr. Callaghan, in the successful carrying on and further development of the business of Joseph Leete & Sons."

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Desirous of obtaining Mr. Evill's consent to the publication of his letter respecting the first edition of *The Family of Leete* (which the reader will find in the *Introduction* to this Volume), I recently paid a visit to my friend, taking with me the rough proof of this second edition, which, at his request, I left with him to be examined. Soon after Mr. Evill wrote to me as follows:—

43, GLOUCESTER GARDENS,

HYDE PARK, W.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I lose no time in sending you back your "rough proof." Before referring to it, I would speak of the great pleasure Mrs. Evill and myself derived from your kind visit to us yesterday. It was really a true delight to see you again, and to note how complete is your retention of all your old physical and mental energy,—*esto perpetua*—your call carried me delightfully back to many of our meetings, decades ago.

And now, as to the new edition. Let me first say how truly gratified I feel to have my name associated with these family records. When I ran off my hurried letter to you (long forgotten by me) in 1883, how little could I have thought of the honoured position it would some time occupy! I am proud of the link that will now permanently associate me with your most interesting circle.

I have looked carefully into, and read much of, the new Edition; and rise from its perusal with exactly the same impressions, and feelings of admiration, that I expressed in my former letter. The whole story of the book, and of the researches that produced it, has attracted me more than ever; its great charm being the infusion into an otherwise dry category of facts, a beautiful spirit of family love, and

devotedness ;—still “the key to your home life” ;—the secret and the cause of the respect, and affection, with which you are regarded by such a wide circle of friends.

It seems to me that you have greatly added to the value and interest of the book. Those chapters on the Military origin of Heraldry and the Crusades are most interesting, and valuable as solid history ; and they impress me as masterpieces of clear descriptive historic writing. The thought of the amount of detailed, and sustained research, that you and your assisting friends, Mr. Bridger and Mr. Anderson, must have entered upon, is really bewildering. The book is a monument of patient, painstaking investigation.

With our warmest regards, always dear Mr. Leete,

Most sincerely yours,

WM. EVILL.

JOSEPH LEETE, ESQ.

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VALEDICTORY.

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The moment has at length come when I must bid a friendly farewell to my Kinsfolk. In doing so, I would express my earnest hope that the Volume upon which I and my faithful and skilful coadjutors have been engaged for years, will be treasured as a standard work of reference upon the history of the Family of Leete. Its value will be greatly enhanced if the abundant materials it contains are treated as the foundation upon which my Kinsmen may construct, and continue to extend, their individual pedigrees. By their thus making use of my book, they will help to keep alive the memory of one who has sought to render a lasting service to his Kinsfolk, in the Old World and the New.

*Faithfully yours,*  
*Joseph Leete.*

*9<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1905.*  


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## GENERAL INDEX.

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Inserted facing page 162.





# THE FAMILY OF LEETE

BY JOSEPH LEETE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

JOHN CORBET ANDERSON

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SECOND EDITION.—REVISED, AND ENLARGED.

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The numerous appreciative notices of the Enlarged Edition of "The Family of Leete" which have reached the author both from England and America, have given him intense pleasure; more especially those which have come from members of the Leete family, from genealogists and authors of repute, and from the editors of publications of such high standing as "The New England Historical and Genealogical Register," of Boston, and "The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record."



Mr. ALFRED ERNEST LEETE, of South Shields, writes in the following terms :—

“As one of the Oakington branch I deeply appreciate your kindness in favouring me with a copy of your most interesting compilation of the Leete Family Records.

“To have been enabled to trace the Family back to Anglo-Saxon times is a distinguished achievement in the field of historic research.

“The fact of establishing such a distant connection sheds the lustre of ages upon a name which every bearer thereof ought not only to be proud, but to feel that it carries with it an inspiration ‘to *live* the life that now is,’ and to cherish the faith and hope of his Forefathers.

“Your own affectionate share in the long-drawn investigation must, I am sure, bring its own compensating reward to your good self. There can be no doubt that this monumental record enshrines within its covers, for future generations, the memory of one who has substantiated a claim to the title of ‘The Father of the Clan,’ in a manner that no other living Leete is able to challenge.”

Mr. CHARLES H. LEETE, M.A., Ph.D., of New York, writes :—

“I am most pleased to accept the very beautiful and very sumptuous volume of the ‘Family of Leete,’ and shall retain it as a choice personal possession.

“You have created a source of endless interest and pleasure to your kin across the sea, and we are duly and truly appreciative of your work.

“To me it is of especial interest to know that I may have had ancestors who took part in the Crusades and others who held land in England before the Conquest.

“I thank you, too, for having incorporated in the book the various facsimiles of ancient records.

“Your own personal career likewise I have read with great interest. It is a great pleasure to know about one who has taken such an interest in our common inheritance and devoted such an abundance of time and expense to its study.”

Writing in reference to this new and enlarged edition of “The Family of Leete,” Mr. THOMAS MILBOURN (a distinguished

antiquary, who for some years was Hon. Sec. of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society), observes :—

"Its perusal has been a very great pleasure, and an interesting study. I consider your addition to family history worthy of the highest commendation, and places you in the top rank of genealogists. I am sure your work will be greatly admired by all thorough genealogical students."

"I much admire the liberal and beautiful style of its production, which very far surpasses any work of a like nature published of late years. The introduction of so many fine and interesting Illustrations adds to its value."

A copy was forwarded to ROBERT HOVENDEN, Esq., F.S.A., for many years Treasurer of the Royal Historical Society of England, from whom the following note was received :—

"Ever since our friend Mr. J. C. Anderson sent me the second edition of the Leete Book I have wanted to write to you to congratulate you upon being able to produce such a perfect Family History. I at once read it through. . . . The page in the book which pleased me most was the illustrated one, whereon is depicted the letter of Governor Leete, with his Seal—the Leete Arms—as you use them. You may well be proud of that."

Respecting this work WM. EVILL, Esq., J.P., wrote to the author as follows :—

"It is indeed good of you to send me a completed copy of your New Volume. As a genealogical record of family life it must, as a feat of painstaking industry, surpass anything of the kind that has ever been done before!—I may really congratulate you on an unique achievement. I would refer too, to the artistic beauty of the production—all seems perfect ; type, paper, illustrations."

Mr. ALFRED KINGSTON, F.R.Hist.S. (Author of "East Anglia and the Great Civil War," with other works of repute) wrote, respecting the volume :—

"It has been an interesting experience to myself to have been privileged to see, and appreciate, the patient research, and the resolute effort to make sure every step

in the building up of this unique family record. I cannot adequately express my admiration for the thoroughness of the research work accomplished by your skilful coadjutor, Mr. J. Corbet Anderson; or, the splendid purpose and devotion to a high ideal, which *you* have infused into the work. In conception and execution it is a work which the book-lover, and the genealogist, will look upon with delight. I can imagine with what pride members of the Family of Leete, both in this country and in America, will look up to the wide-spreading branches of the 'Family Tree' which you have, at so much pains, presented to their notice. The volume is as beautiful in presentment, as it is inspiring in literary method, and artistic treatment."

A well-known book-lover of Boston, U.S.A., after a perusal of the Enlarged Edition of "The Family of Leete," which had been lent to him by a friend, wrote as follows:—

"Thanks for the loan of the splendid Leete Family Book, which delightful display of really interesting matter quite went to my soul, as a well-contrived piece of indomitable, sagacious, delving clean into the past . . . a very pattern indeed, to make the mouth water of every delving New Englander . . . the collecting skill of the volume and its many points opening up, shall I say, the habits of our shadowy English forefathers, having fairly driven the name of Leete right down into my marrow bones.

"The American division of the book is also most refreshing.

"A superb tome, with a vengeance, to be treasured, so admirably is it illustrated, printed and bound, and on such exquisite quality of paper, agreeable to the eye. . . .

"As an example of going straight to the root of things in the way of serving up the original article of ancient perfume, it is worth, at least to my mind, a thousand popular histories."

The following notice appeared in the "New-England Historical and Genealogical Register," Boston, April, 1907:—

"The Family of Leete. By Joseph Leete, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, South Norwood, Surrey. In conjunction with John Corbet Anderson, author of 'Chronicles of Croydon,' 'Biblical Monuments,' etc., etc. Second Edition. Revised and enlarged. London. 1906. 4to, pp. 211, Illus.

"Americans of this family—one of the very few whose claim to coat armor can be positively proved—have just cause for pride in this beautiful, costly volume, which is all that refined, scholarly taste can produce, is bound in full morocco, printed on deckle-edge paper, and finely illustrated. Fac-similes of portions of the Domesday book and other ancient official documents, as well as maps and portraits, add to the interest of the volume. The two English branches of Eversden and Oakington are fully treated, and have each a tabular pedigree, as has also the American branch, which will prove very helpful to those of the family who wish to learn the English ancestry of their line. An excellent account of the interesting life of the author closes this valuable work."

The following notice appeared in "The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record," July, 1908 :—

"The Family of Leete. By Joseph Leete, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, South Norwood, Surrey, in conjunction with John Corbet Anderson. Crushed Levant. Quarto, pp. 211. Second Edition. Revised and Enlarged. Press of Blades, East and Blades, London. 1906.

"This beautiful volume contains the genealogical chronicle of the English family of Leete, whose ancestor was John Leete of Eversden, Co. Cambridge, and also incidentally records a number of other Leete families, notably of Oakington, Co. Cambridge, of Governor William Leete of Guilford, Conn., the American branch, of the Irish branch, of Nicholas Leate, Alderman of London, and of the De Lettes of France. The author seems to have made an exhaustive search in the English Counties for records of all bearing his name from the earliest time, and with a view to making a lasting memorial of his ancestry, has arranged and printed this great collection, with numerous pedigree charts and illustrations of ancient MSS. and places and persons of note. Undeterred by the great cost of such a search he has spared no expense in the publication, and the beauty of the paper, press work, type, illustrations and binding, would be difficult to surpass.

"An honest pride in an ancient and honourable lineage has been stimulated by a praiseworthy desire to give to all of this name the results of many years' research, and the spirit which prompted so generous an action cannot be too heartily commended. The volume is unique, not only as a family record but as an artistic publication, and those libraries or societies possessing copies of this valuable work are to be congratulated. Mr. Leete should feel assured of the thanks and appreciation of all future generations claiming descent from this English country family."

The editor of one of the most important genealogical publications of America, after reviewing "The Family of Leete," writes:—

"Your work on 'The Family of Leete' is one of the finest books of the character I have had the privilege of reviewing."

"It merits all I have said and more, and I have called the attention of our experts to it, as a splendid example of what *could* and *should* be done."

The following is a List of Public Libraries and other Institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States of America to which copies of the Enlarged Edition of "The Family of Leete" have been presented.

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- Royal Library, Windsor Castle.
- British Museum, London.
- Bodleian Library, Oxford.
- University Library, Cambridge.
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- Trinity College, Dublin.
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- University Library, Glasgow.
- City of Manchester Free Library.
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- Royal Institution, Albemarle Street, London.
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LIBRARIES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM—*continued.*

Library of the Statistical Society, London.

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The Library of Congress, Washington.

New York State Library, Albany.

Astor Library, New York.

Watkinson Library of Reference, Hartford, Conn.

Library of the New York Historical Society.

Library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston.

State Library of Massachusetts, State House, Boston.

Library of New Haven Colony Historical Society, New Haven, Conn.

Library of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore.

Library of Yale College.

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Virginia Historical Society, Richmond.

New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord.

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The Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore.

The Guilford Library, Guilford, Conn.

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, New York.







